

THE MIGHTY THOR[®]



MARVEL MASTERWORKS[®]
BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
PRESENTS

THE MIGHTY THOR

VOLUME 2

COLLECTING

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY Nos. 101-110

STAN LEE • JACK KIRBY



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CREDITS

THE MIGHTY THOR

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY Nos. 101-110

Writer: Stan Lee

Penciler: Jack Kirby

Inkers: George Roussos (Nos. 101, 105)

Chic Stone (Nos. 102-110)

Paul Reinman (No. 102)

Don Heck (No. 104)

Vince Colletta (Nos. 106-110)

Letterers: Sam Rosen (Nos. 101, 103, 104, 109)

Art Simek (Nos. 101-108, 110)

Collection Cover Art: Jack Kirby & Dean White

Color Reconstruction: Michael Kelleher & Kellustration

Art Reconstruction: Pacific Rim Graphics & Michael Kelleher

Special Thanks: Ralph Macchio

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INTRODUCTION

BY STAN LEE

Wow! It's been so many years since I've read these classic Thor tales that I'd almost forgotten how totally unique they are.

Sitting here now, with fingers poised over my computer's keyboard, I can't help but think there has rarely been a group of characters as regal, as fanciful and as fantastically diversified as the rollicking company that constitutes our Asgardian cast of characters.

Think about it! In Asgard alone you can find gods and goddesses, storm giants, trolls, fire monsters, enchanters and demons! Then, whenever the God of Thunder crosses the Rainbow Bridge to Midgard (that's "Earth" for the benefit of any nonbelievers among thee), ol' Goldilocks is sure to encounter the same wild and wacky villains that any other bigger-than-life Marvel muscleman might run into.

This particular collection of Thor thrillers is especially notable because it heralds the start of the really spectacular plots and premises for which these mags have long been famous. You'll find yourself caught up in the incredible legendry of fabled Asgard just as we ourselves were beginning to realize the rich potential, the endless stream of stories that could be garnered from that land of magic and enchantment, a realm which will capture the imagination of humans for as long as men dream and fantasize about the glories of Valhalla.

In addition, just because we simply can't do enough for you, we've included some extra "Tales of Asgard" features, which have been so popular for so many years. One of the best things about these collector's-item features is the fact that they gave us the chance to show Thor as a boy and a young man. They also gave us a rare opportunity to play up some of the supporting Asgardian characters whom we couldn't normally feature due to lack of space.

Here in the mighty Marvel Bullpen we're often asked who our favorite characters are within the many titles we publish. Whenever that query is posed about the Thor series, I'm hard-pressed to come up with an accurate answer. There are just too many heroes and villains to choose from, all of whom have their own personalities and charisma. In fact, that may well be why the Mighty Thor has been included among the top comic book best-seller lists for lo these many years.

But, getting back to favorites, I've always had a soft spot in my heart for Odin. (Isn't it strange? Even though we ourselves may write the stories, even though the characters are merely works of fiction—or are they?—we still think of them as real flesh-and-blood people, and we come to know them as well as we know our own friends and neighbors—or perhaps even better!) I've always admired Odin's dignity, his unflappability, his stern but honorable sense of justice. And the thing that makes him extra appealing to me is the fact that he has two sons, both of whom he loves, even though one is virtuous and the other is an unmitigated villain. In writing his dialogue, I'd often try to imagine the sorrow

and heartbreak of a father who must have known in his heart of hearts that one son was a sinister betrayer, and yet, he was still Odin's son, still flesh of Odin's flesh, which was why the heavy-hearted, silently grieving All-Father could never completely disavow the evil Loki.

Of course, when talking about favorite characters, we needn't necessarily exclude villains. In the vast panoply of legendary menaces, surely none has ever been as totally devious and diabolical as that very same Loki, Thor's half-brother. According to the great Norse myths that have lived through the ages, Loki has primarily been known as the God of Mischief. But we at Marvel took the liberty of altering that myth a little. To us, Loki is, was and always shall be the supreme embodiment of all that is despicable and deadly in man or godling. To us, he'll always be the God of Evil! And to me personally, he'll always be one of my favorite villains.

But what about Thor himself? What about a hero with two different personas? How can you help but care about a man who's a dedicated, life-saving surgeon in his normal identity, and the mighty, avenging God of Thunder after he striketh his cane upon the ground? However, that last sentence may not be totally accurate. Maybe our hero's natural identity is being the son of Odin. Perhaps it's Dr. Don Blake that's his alter ego. Gives one something to think about, doesn't it?

But now, it's time to stop my rambling and offer you a small foretaste of the excitement awaiting you on the pages ahead. Perhaps just mentioning some of the fiendish foes that our wing-headed wunderkind is about to face will be enough to whet your appetite. After all, the plots themselves are far too complex to discuss in the small amount of space we have left—and besides, why give all the good stuff away too soon?

We'll start with Loki, as usual, but very soon you'll meet Zarrko, the Tomorrow Man—a fiend from the future! And since everyone likes variety, you'll also encounter Giant-Man, the Wondrous Wasp and Iron Man—and that's just in the first story!

After that, in a rapid succession, you'll thrill to Heimdall, Guardian of the Rainbow Bridge; Hela, Goddess of Death; the Enchantress and the Executioner; Skagg the Storm Giant and Surtur the Fire Demon; Balder the Brave; the Cobra and Mr. Hyde; Captain America; the Grey Gargoyle; Dr. Strange; an assorted gaggle of Trolls; and, wrapping it up in high style, the mutant master-menace Magneto himself!

There! We did it all for you, faithful one. Now, the least you can do in return is settle back, turn the page, and enjoy!

EXCELSIOR!



1993



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

JOURNEY INTO



IND.

MYSTERY

101
FEB.

THE MIGHTY THOR

THRILLS YOU
AS NEVER
BEFORE IN...

"THE RETURN OF
ZARRKO,

THE
TOMORROW
MAN!"



A MIGHTY MARVEL
MASTERWORK!

THE MIGHTY THOR

"THE RETURN OF ZARRKO, THE TOMORROW MAN!"

STAND BACK, FOLKS! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, BUT THOR'S ON A RAMPAGE AND IT ISN'T SAFE TO GET NEAR HIM!

ODIN!
I'VE GOT TO SEE ODIN!

DID YOU SEE THAT? HIS FOOT CHIPPED A PIECE OUT OF THAT LAMPOST AS HE PASSED BY!

AND LOOK HOW HE **SCRUNCHED** THE STEEL LITTER BASKET THAT WAS IN HIS WAY!!
WOW!



WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE
DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY
INKED BY: G. BELL
LETTERED BY: S. ROSEN

SUDDENLY, AS THOUGH SNAPPING OUT OF A DREAM, THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD SEEMS TO SEE THOSE SURROUNDING HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND...

AWAY, ALL OF YOU!! LET NONE INTRUDE UPON THOR!



MORTALS! HOW LIKE CHATTERING MONKEYS YOU ARE!! ALWAYS GATHERING ABOUT THOSE WHO WANT TO BE ALONE!

WELL, THOR HAS HAD ENOUGH OF YOU! I HAVE LOST INTEREST IN YOUR PETTY, PUNY LIVES!



AS THE GOLDEN-HAIRED IMMORTAL STORMS OFF INTO THE DISTANCE, HE CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO NOTICE A FEW TINY ANTS... SENSITIVE INSECTS WHO MAKE A DECISION AMONG THEMSELVES...



AND SOME DISTANCE AWAY, THE RESULT OF THAT DECISION CAN NOW BE SEEN!

QUIET, JAN! A MESSAGE FROM THE ANTS IS JUST COMING IN! SOUNDS URGENT!

WHAT DO THEY SAY, HANK?



IT'S THOR! HE SEEMS TO BE IN A RAGE! THERE'S A CHANCE SOMEONE MIGHT GET HURT! I'LL CONTACT IRON MAN! IT MAY TAKE US BOTH TO CALM THOR DOWN!

WILL YOU CHANGE TO GIANT-MAN OR ANT-MAN, HANK?

GIANT-MAN! I'LL NEED ALL THE STRENGTH I CAN MUSTER!



WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? LET'S GO!

STOP SNARLING, BOSS MAN! YOU CAN'T GO WITHOUT YOUR SIZE-CAPSULES BELT!



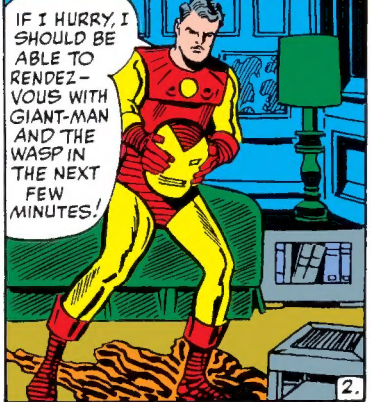
MUCH OBLIGED, WASP! IT WAS CARELESS OF ME TO FORGET THAT! NOW FOLLOW ME!

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, YOU BIG DREAM-BOAT!



MEANTIME, THE SECRET CODED NUMBER WHICH GIANT-MAN HAD CALLED ACTIVATES AN ALARM SIGNAL IN THE HOME OF MILLIONAIRE TONY STARK... BETTER KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS IRON MAN!

IF I HURRY, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO RENDEZ-VOUS WITH GIANT-MAN AND THE WASP IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES!



MINUTES LATER, OVER AN INTERSECTION AT THE VAN WYCK EXPRESSWAY...

THERE'S THOR NOW, BUT... HE DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT TRUCK BEARING DOWN ON HIM!

HEY, FANCY PANTS! WATCH OUT!! I CAN'T STOP!!

THOR WATCHES OUT FOR NOBODY!!
HOLY COW!

WHAM!

NOW DON'T GET EXCITED, FELLA! NO HARM DONE! I'LL STRAIGHTEN OUT YOUR WHEELS IN NO TIME! THOR DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT HE WAS DOING!

I MUST BE DREAMIN'!! IT...IT REALLY WAS THOR! AND YOU'RE GIANT-MAN! AND IRON MAN!

IT...IT'S THE AVENGERS THEMSELVES!!

HERE... THIS WILL MORE THAN PAY FOR THE DAMAGE TO YOUR TRUCK!

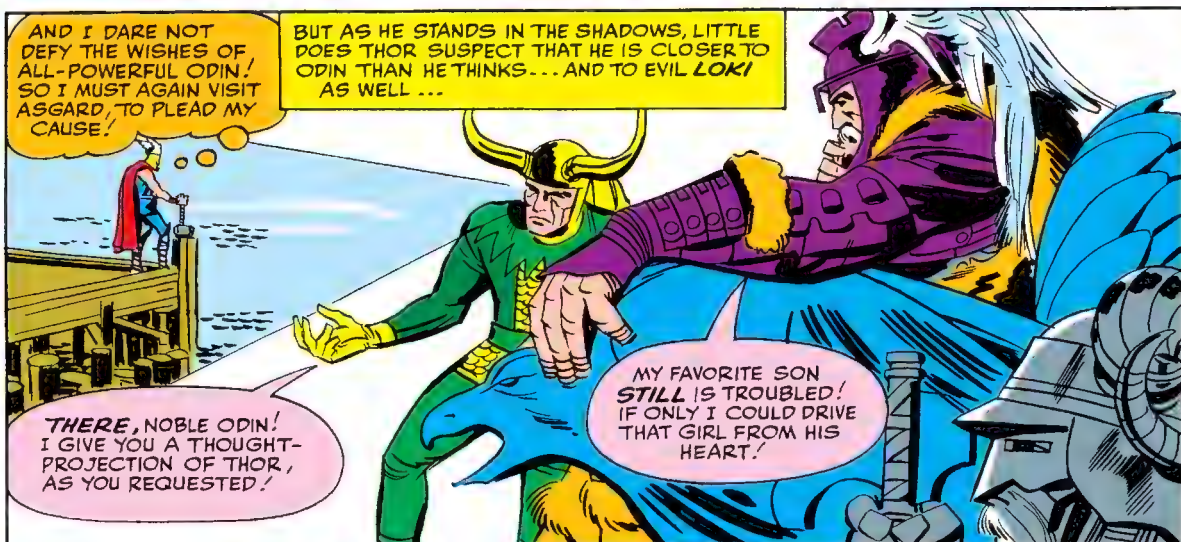
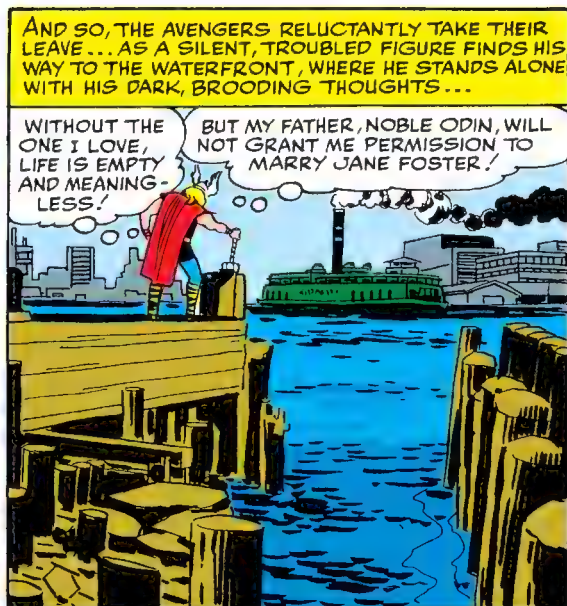
THOR... WAIT! HE ISN'T EVEN LISTENING!

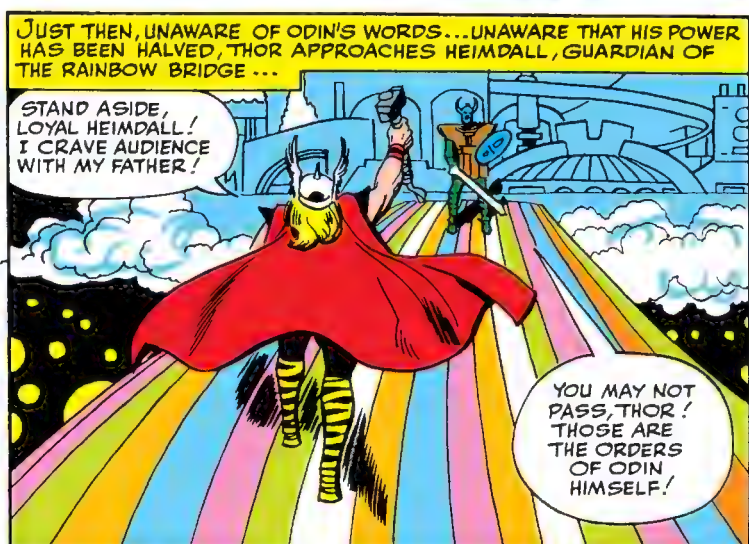
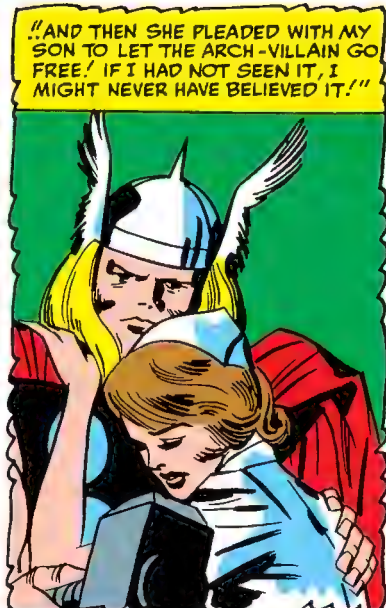
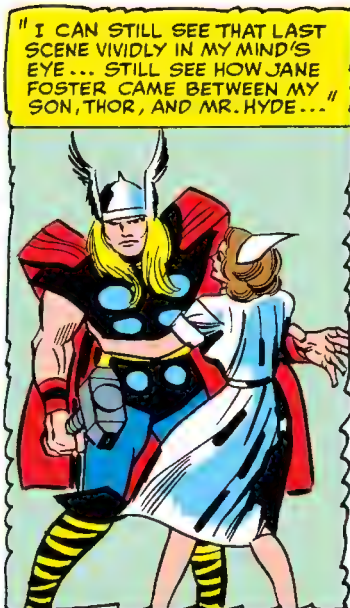
THOR! LISTEN... THIS IS GIANT-MAN! YOU CAN'T ROAM AROUND THE CITY THAT WAY, TRAMPLING ON ANYTHING THAT GETS IN YOUR WAY!

WHAT'S WRONG, PARTNER?? WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME TEAM! WE WANT TO HELP YOU! THOR... WAIT!

NO ONE CAN HELP ME!

WHAT I HAVE TO DO MUST BE DONE ALONE! WHERE I HAVE TO GO, NONE CAN ACCOMPANY ME! SO LEAVE ME! THIS IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS, I SAY GO!!





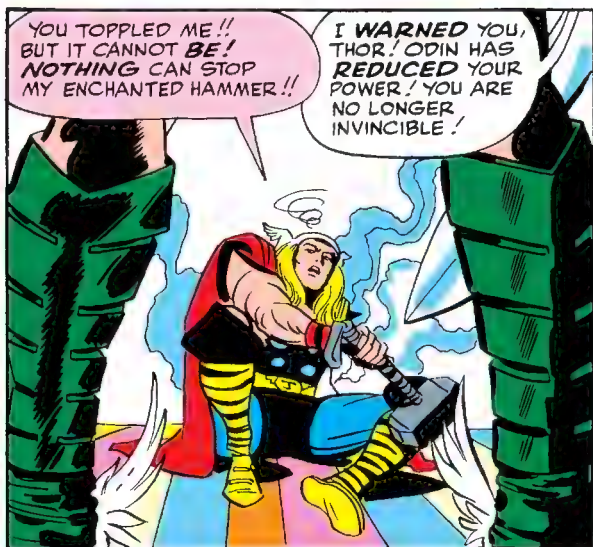


THOR... WAIT! ODIN HAS TAKEN HALF YOUR POWER! YOUR HAMMER CAN NO LONGER TRIUMPH!

I'LL HEAR NO MORE!!
STAND ASIDE... OR I
STRIKE!!

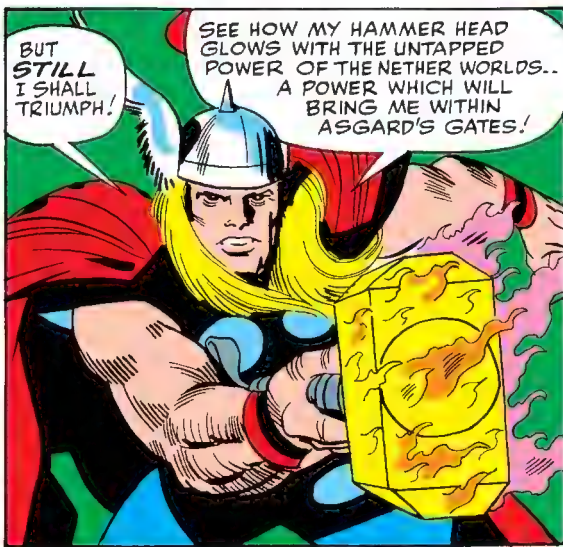


NO, GOD OF THUNDER...
IT IS **I** WHO SHALL STRIKE
FIRST!... WITH ALL THE
COSMIC FORCE OF THE
UNIVERSE IN THE BLADE
OF MY SWORD!!



YOU TOPPLED ME!!
BUT IT CANNOT **BE!**
NOTHING CAN STOP
MY ENCHANTED HAMMER!!

I **WARNED** YOU,
THOR! ODIN HAS
REDUCED YOUR
POWER! YOU ARE
NO LONGER
INVINCIBLE!



BUT
STILL
I SHALL
TRIUMPH!

SEE HOW MY HAMMER HEAD
GLOWS WITH THE UNTAPPED
POWER OF THE NETHER WORLDS..
A POWER WHICH WILL
BRING ME WITHIN
ASGARD'S GATES!



NOW ARE YOU
CONVINCED,
MIGHTY THOR??

ONCE THAT BLOW
WOULD HAVE
HUMBLED ME...
NOW IT BARELY
SPLINTERS MY
SHIELD!

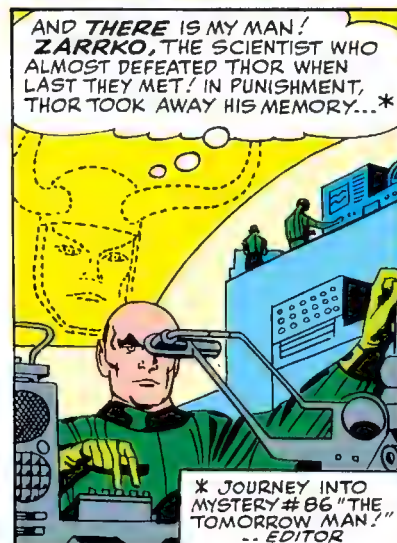
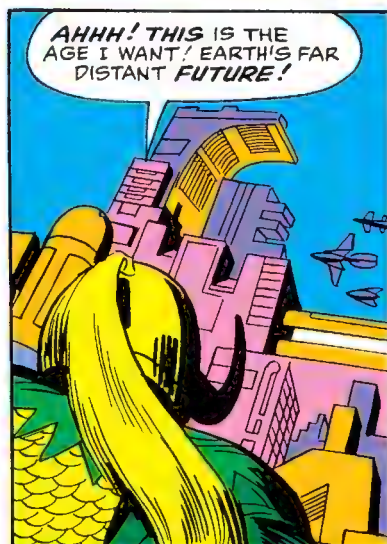
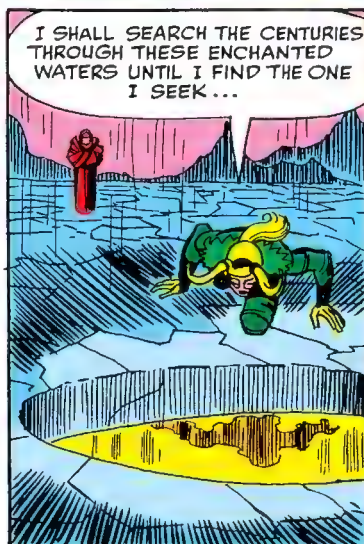
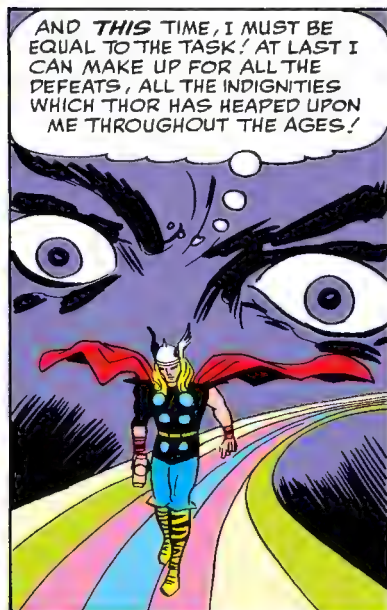


IT IS **TRUE**,
THEN... ODIN HAS
TAKEN HALF MY
POWER! I AM NO
LONGER IN FAVOR
IN ASGARD!



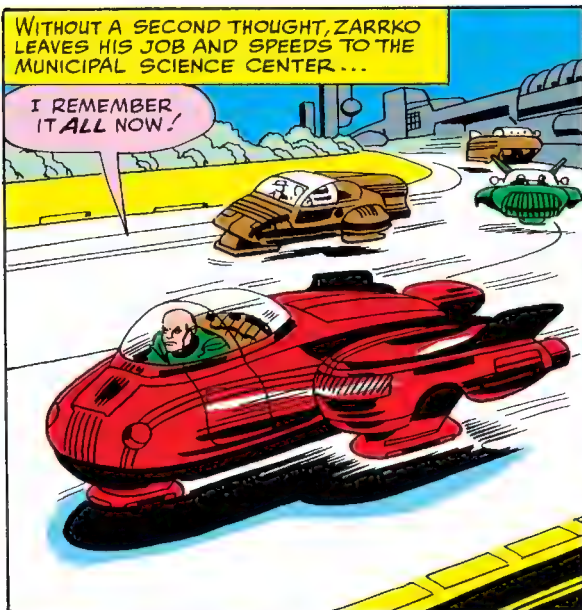
BUT HE CANNOT DENY ME!
HE MUST NOT REFUSE TO
HEAR MY WORDS!!

ODIN!! NOBLE
FATHER! DO NOT
SPURN ME!
**HEAR
ME,
ODIN!**



WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, ZARRKO LEAVES HIS JOB AND SPEEDS TO THE MUNICIPAL SCIENCE CENTER...

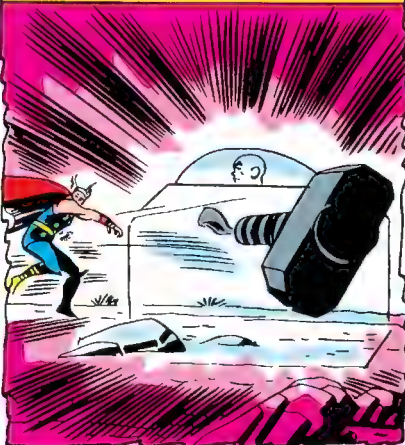
I REMEMBER IT ALL NOW!



I HAD STOLEN THE COBALT BOMB FROM 20TH CENTURY EARTH AND BROUGHT IT TO MY OWN CENTURY, FAR IN THE FUTURE! WE HAD NO WEAPONS IN THE FUTURE, AND I KNEW I COULD RULE THE WORLD WITH SUCH A BOMB!



"TRY AS HE MIGHT, THOR COULDN'T STOP ME FROM LEAVING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND REACHING MY OWN TIME ..."



"BUT HE DID THE ONE THING I NEVER EXPECTED... HE FOLLOWED ME INTO THE FUTURE, AND REGAINED THE DREADED BOMB!"

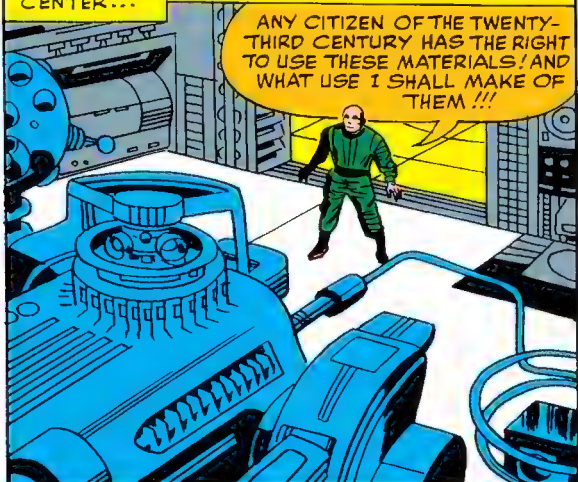


"THEN IN OUR FINAL BATTLE, AN ACCIDENT MADE ME LOSE MY MEMORY... AND I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO REMEMBER UNTIL NOW! BUT... WHAT BROUGHT MY MEMORY BACK TO ME NOW?"



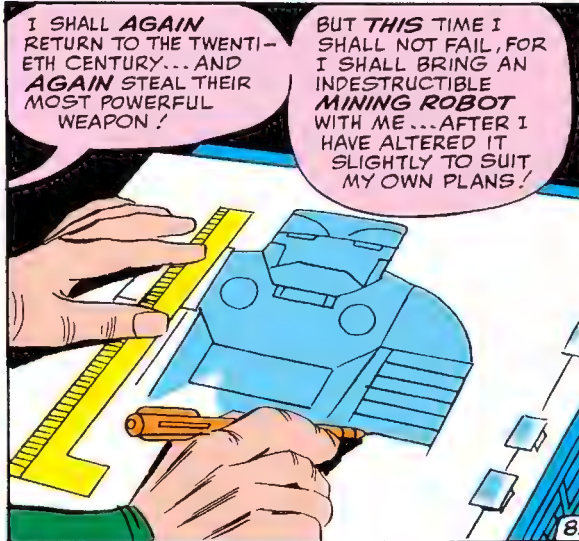
BUT THE TOMORROW MAN'S THOUGHTS ARE BROKEN AS HE FINALLY REACHES THE MUNICIPAL SCIENCE CENTER...

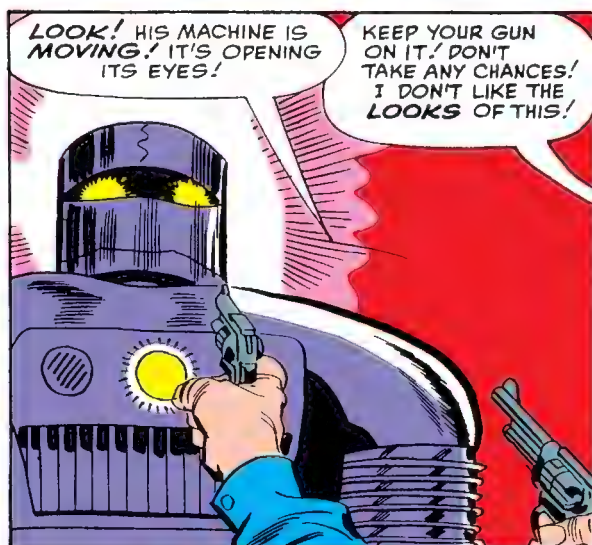
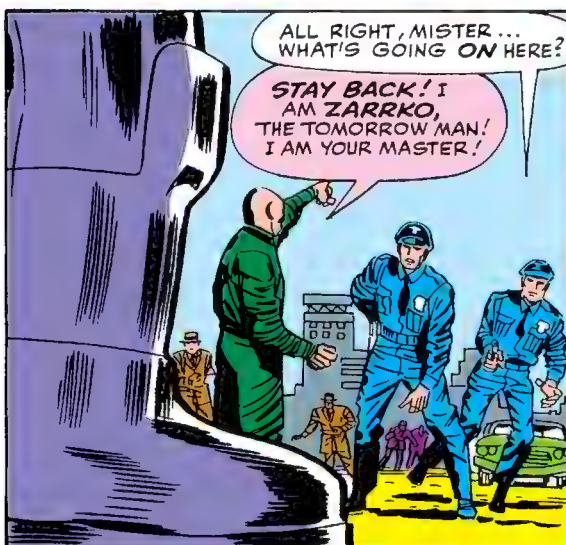
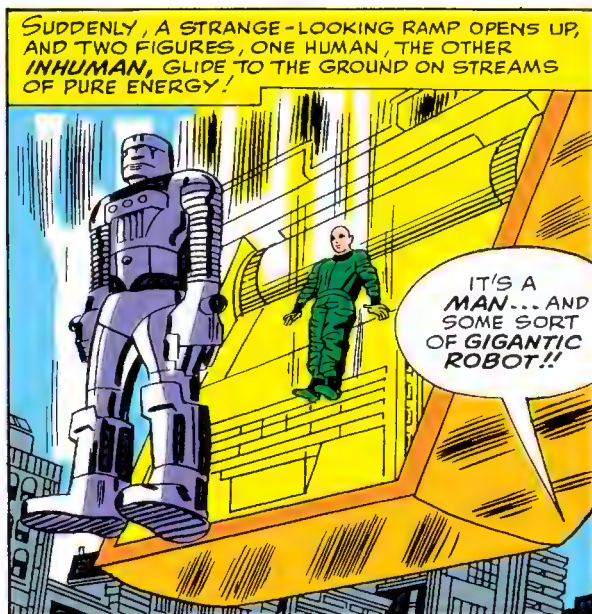
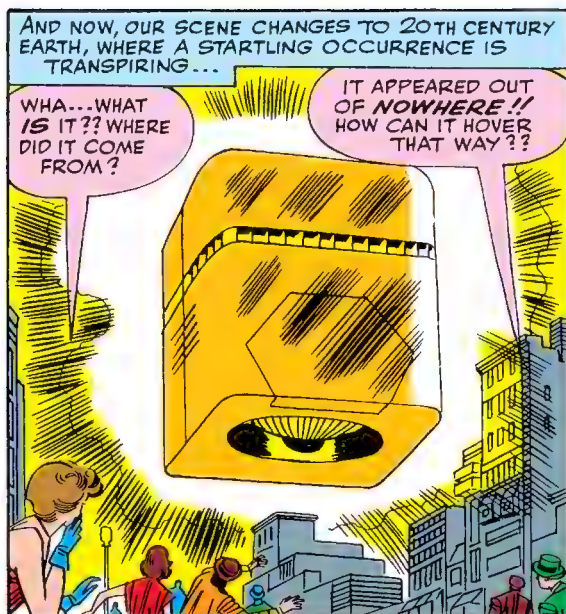
ANY CITIZEN OF THE TWENTY-THIRD CENTURY HAS THE RIGHT TO USE THESE MATERIALS! AND WHAT USE I SHALL MAKE OF THEM!!!



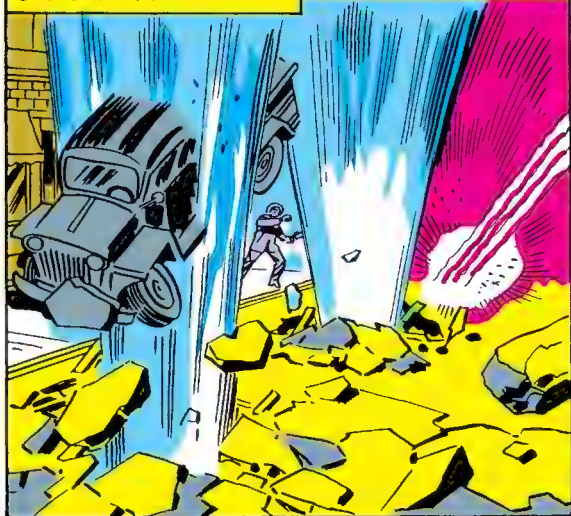
I SHALL AGAIN RETURN TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY... AND AGAIN STEAL THEIR MOST POWERFUL WEAPON!

BUT THIS TIME I SHALL NOT FAIL, FOR I SHALL BRING AN INDESTRUCTIBLE MINING ROBOT WITH ME... AFTER I HAVE ALTERED IT SLIGHTLY TO SUIT MY OWN PLANS!





SLOWLY, CALMLY, THE TOMORROW MAN ORDERS HIS ROBOT TO GIVE A LITTLE SHOW OF STRENGTH, TO DEMONSTRATE HIS GREAT POWER FOR THE AWE-STRICKEN MULTITUDES.

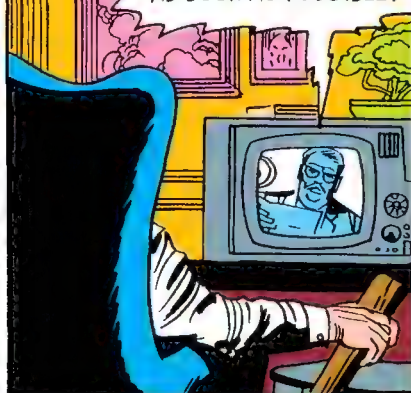


ENOUGH! REPLACE THE BUILDING NOW! WE MUST BE READY...FOR THOR IS CERTAIN TO HEAR OF OUR COMING! AND WHEN HE DOES...!!



MEANWHILE WHAT OF THOR?? IN HIS MORTAL IDENTITY AS DR. DON BLAKE, HE WATCHES THE EVENING NEWSCAST..

AND THE CITY HAS BEEN ORDERED **EVACUATED** AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!



A MAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE FROM THE FUTURE...WITH AN INDESTRUCTIBLE GIANT ROBOT!

IT MIGHT BE MY OLD ENEMY, **THE TOMORROW MAN!**



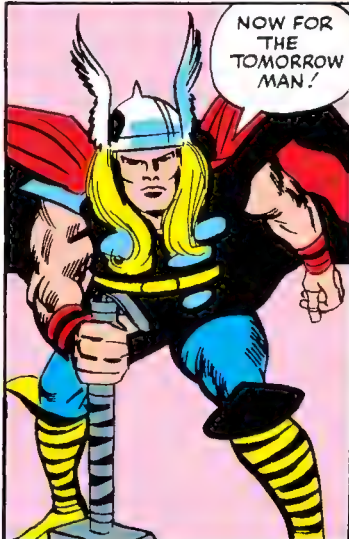
BUT NO MATTER **WHO** IT IS...I CAN'T SIT HERE AND BROOD ALL NIGHT! PERHAPS A **BATTLE** IS WHAT I NEED... A CHANCE TO PIT MY STRENGTH AGAINST OTHERS...AS THE MIGHTY **THOR!**



WITHIN SECONDS, THE LAME DOCTOR RISES AND POUNDS HIS WALKING STICK ON THE FLOOR!



NOW FOR THE TOMORROW MAN!

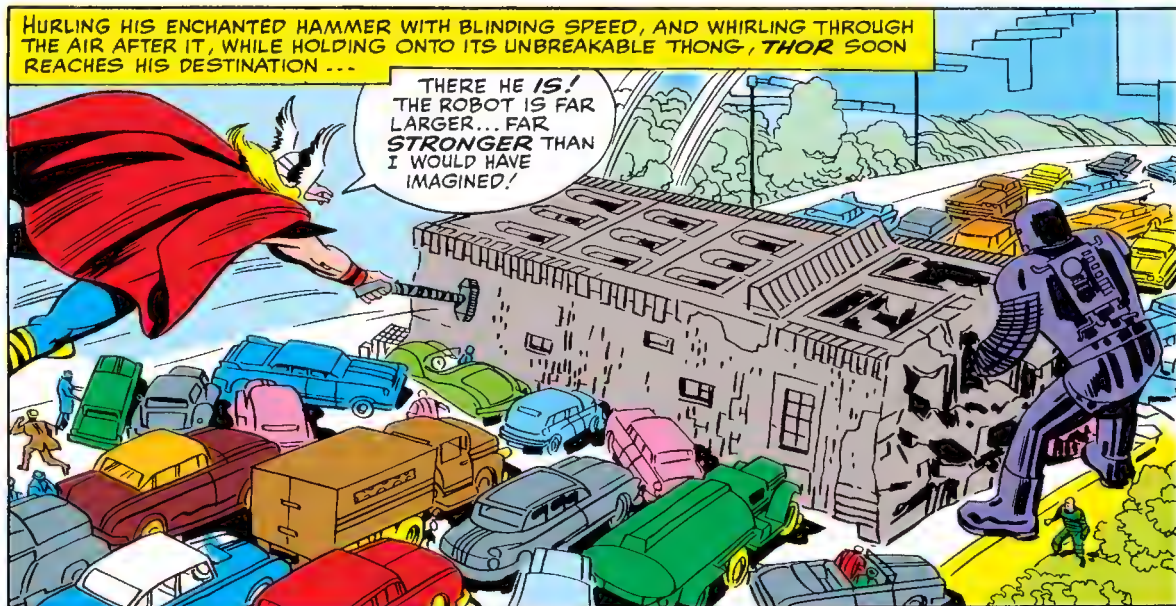


THOUGH MY STRENGTH HAS BEEN REDUCED BY HALF, I AM STILL MIGHTY THOR! **STILL** MORE THAN A MATCH FOR ANY MORTAL HERE ON EARTH!



HURLING HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER WITH BLINDING SPEED, AND WHIRLING THROUGH THE AIR AFTER IT, WHILE HOLDING ONTO ITS UNBREAKABLE THONG, **THOR** SOON REACHES HIS DESTINATION ...

THERE HE IS!
THE ROBOT IS FAR
LARGER... FAR
STRONGER THAN
I WOULD HAVE
IMAGINED!



HE HAS PLACED A DESERTED
BUILDING ACROSS THE HIGHWAY,
TO BLOCK TRAFFIC!!

BUT THOR WILL
CRUMBLE THE
BRICKS TO
ASHES WITH ONE
HAMMER STROKE!

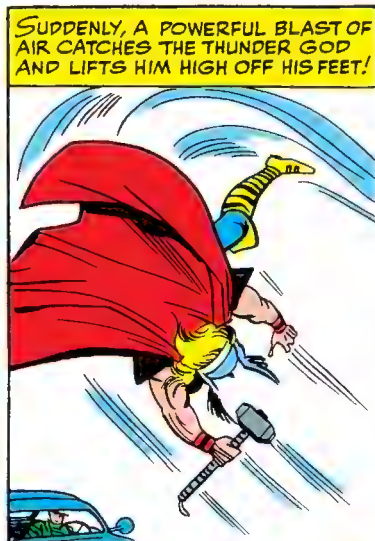


I **FAILED!**
ALL I DID
WAS CHIP
OFF SOME
BRICKS!

THE POWER OF
MY **HAMMER**
HAS BEEN
HALVED ALSO!
AND JUST
WHEN I NEED
IT THE **MOST!**

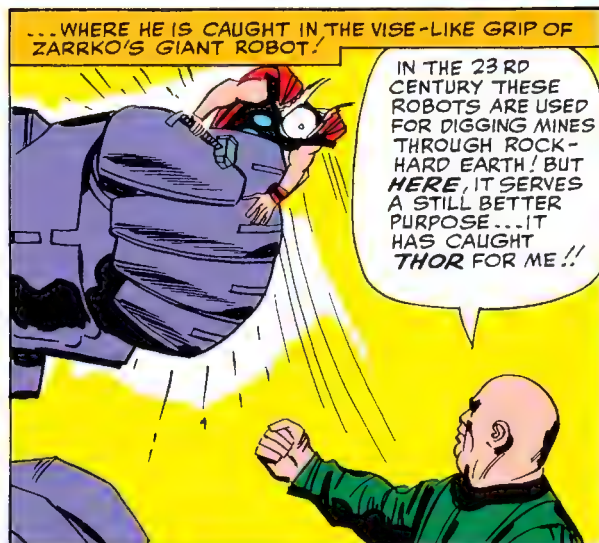


SUDDENLY, A POWERFUL BLAST OF
AIR CATCHES THE THUNDER GOD
AND LIFTS HIM HIGH OFF HIS FEET!



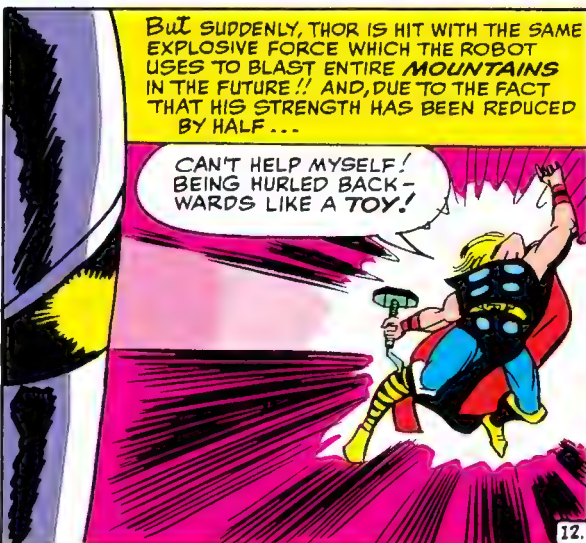
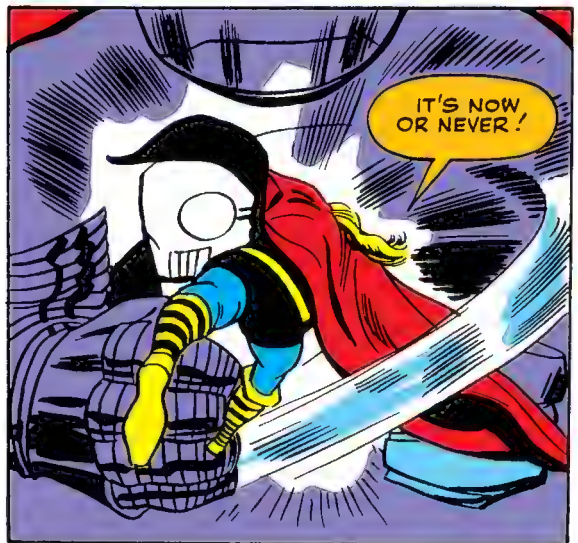
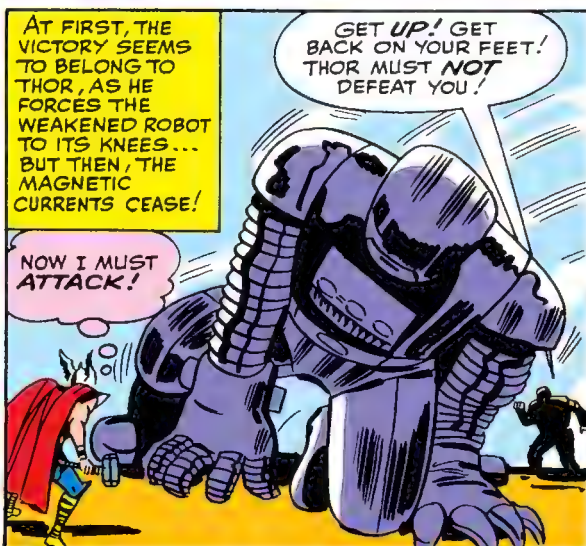
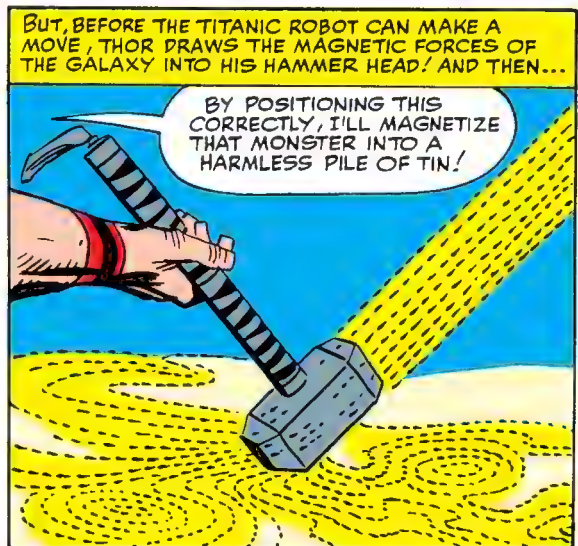
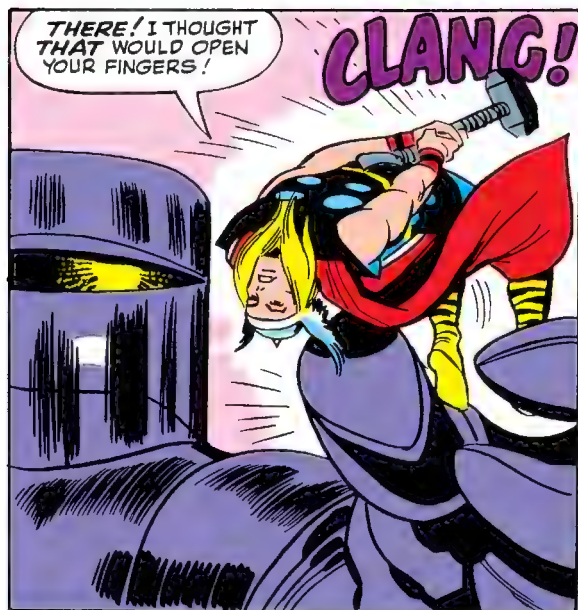
...WHERE HE IS CAUGHT IN THE VISE-LIKE GRIP OF
ZARRKO'S GIANT ROBOT!

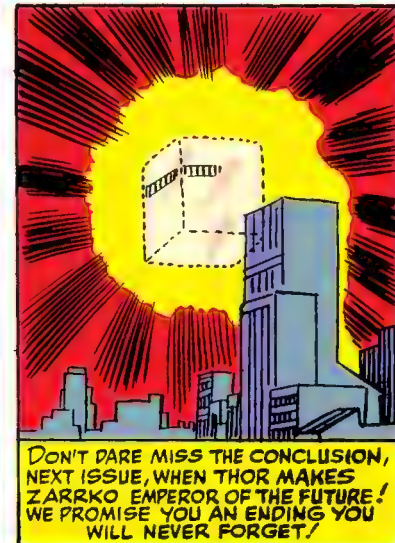
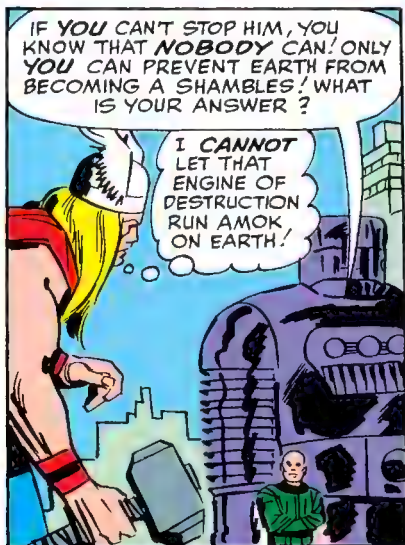
IN THE 23RD
CENTURY THESE
ROBOTS ARE USED
FOR DIGGING MINES
THROUGH ROCK-
HARD EARTH! BUT
HERE, IT SERVES
A STILL BETTER
PURPOSE...IT
HAS CAUGHT
THOR FOR ME!!



CATCHING THE GOD OF THUNDER
AND **HOLDING** HIM, TOMORROW MAN,
ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!!







TALES
of
ASGARD
HOME
OF THE
MIGHTY
NORSE
GODS!

THE BOYHOOD OF THOR!

"the **INVASION** of **ASGARD!**"

HERE STANDS HEIMDALL!
HEIMDALL, GUARDIAN OF THE
RAINBOW BRIDGE TO ASGARD!
HEIMDALL, THE ETERNALLY
VIGILANT! HEIMDALL THE
IMMOVABLE!

HEIMDALL, I
HAVE HEARD THAT
THE FORCES OF EVIL*
ARE ABOUT TO ATTACK
ASGARD! I CAME TO
HELP YOU GUARD
THE RAINBOW
BRIDGE!

WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE

DRAWN BY:
JACK KIRBY

INKED BY:
G. BELL

LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK

* "FORCES OF EVIL": ALL THE
SINISTER, POWERFUL MENACES
WHICH WOULD DESTROY NOBLE
ASGARD!



LEAVE ME, YOUNG THOR! THERE IS MAN'S WORK TO BE DONE HERE! GO!

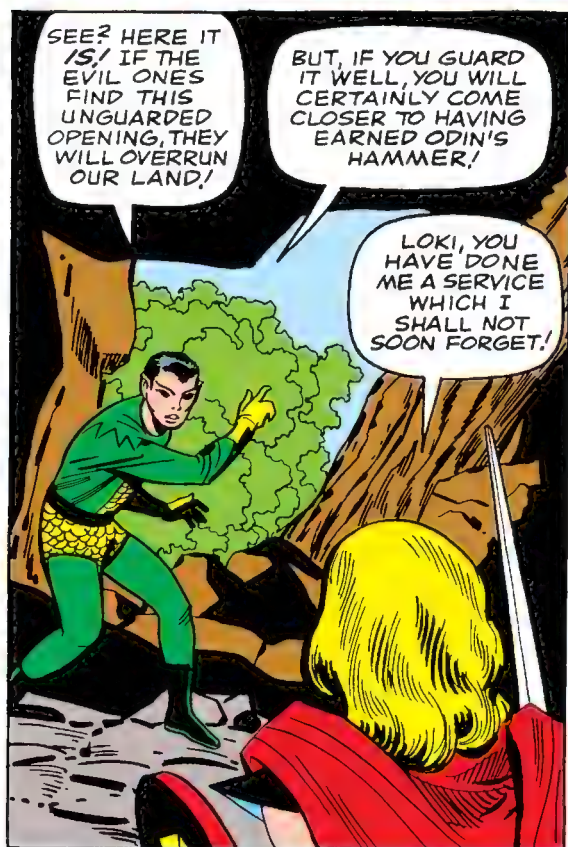
BUT I MUST DO NOBLE DEEDS, THAT I MAY EARN THE MIGHTY URU HAMMER OF ODIN!

PSSST, THOR! COME HERE! LOKI! WILL TELL YOU HOW TO WIN YOUR FATHER'S HAMMER!



WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME, LOKI?

FOLLOW ME! I HAVE FOUND A HOLE IN ASGARD'S DEFENSES! YOU MUST GUARD IT WHILE I GO FOR HELP!



SEE? HERE IT IS! IF THE EVIL ONES FIND THIS UNGUARDED OPENING, THEY WILL OVERRUN OUR LAND!

BUT, IF YOU GUARD IT WELL, YOU WILL CERTAINLY COME CLOSER TO HAVING EARNED ODIN'S HAMMER!

LOKI, YOU HAVE DONE ME A SERVICE WHICH I SHALL NOT SOON FORGET!



TRUSTING FOOL! I KNOW YOU WON'T SOON FORGET THIS--FOR IT IS I WHO MADE THAT HOLE--AND IT IS I WHO TOLD THE EVIL ONES IT IS THERE--SO THAT THEY WILL COME AND DEFEAT YOU!

AND THEN, IT WILL BE LOKI'S TURN TO TRY TO WIN THE ENCHANTED HAMMER!



KNOWING HIS SWORD ALONE CANNOT HOLD BACK THE SURGING ATTACK OF THE EVIL ONES, THOR RESORTS TO CUNNING--TO TRICKERY--AS HE CAUSES A GEYSER TO ERUPT WITH ONE BLOW OF HIS UNBREAKABLE BLADE!



BUT, LITTLE DOES BRAVE THOR REALIZE, AS HE FACES THE ATTACK OF THE NORN HAG ON HER INCREDIBLE DRAGON, THAT LOKI HAS SUMMONED NO HELP!

WELL DONE, HAG! HE IS TRAPPED!

NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN WITHSTAND MY DRAGON'S ENCHANTED BREATH!

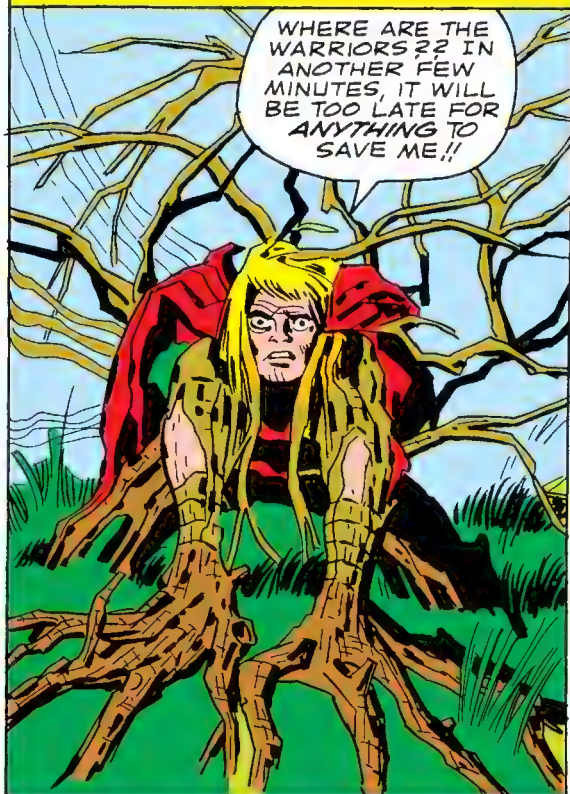


WEAKENED BY THE SMOKEY FUMES, HIS STRENGTH WANING--THOR SINKS TO HIS KNEES AS THE MIGHTY RIME GIANT WEAVES A SPELL ABOUT HIM...



AND, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SPELL, THE SON OF ODIN FINDS HIMSELF INEXORABLY TURNING INTO-- A TREE!

WHERE ARE THE WARRIORS?? IN ANOTHER FEW MINUTES, IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR ANYTHING TO SAVE ME!!



BUT THEN, AS THOUGH IN ANSWER TO THOR'S IMPASSIONED PLEA, A MIGHTY WAR CRY IS HEARD...

FOR ODIN, AND ASGARD!!!



AS THE FIRST
BLOW IS STRUCK,
THE SPELL FALLS
FROM YOUNG
THOR, AND HE
BECOMES THE
IMMORTAL
GODLING ONCE
AGAIN!!

WE HEARD THE SOUNDS
OF BATTLE, MY SON! IT
WAS THE CLANGING OF
YOUR SWORD THAT
ALERTED US!

OH, BUT, FATHER, I
HAVE FAILED! THE
EVIL ONES WOULD
HAVE **DEFEATED**
ME IF NOT FOR
YOUR ATTACK!

SPEAK NOT SO, YOUNG
THOR! WITHOUT YOUR
VALIANT DEFENSE, THEY
WOULD HAVE BROKEN
THROUGH THIS OPENING
TO ASGARD! YOU HAVE
GIVEN US THE TIME TO
DEFEND OURSELVES!
YOU HAVE **SAVED**
ASGARD!



THEN, REALIZING THEY HAVE LOST THE
ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE,,, SEEING THE
FURY WITH WHICH THE GODS OF ASGARD
BATTLE -- THE EVIL ONES SLOWLY TURN
AND STUMBLE BACK TO THE DARKNESS
FROM WHENCE -- THEY HAVE COME!



WHILE HE WHO WILL ONE DAY BE GOD OF THUNDER
LIFTS THE URU HAMMER HIGHER THAN IT HAS EVER
BEEN LIFTED BEFORE!!

I HAVE BEEN REWARDED
WITH ADDITIONAL STRENGTH! SOON PERHAPS, SOON I
SHALL BE ABLE TO LIFT THE MIGHTY HAMMER ABOVE
MY HEAD! AND, ON
THAT GLORIOUS DAY, IT
WILL BE **MINE** TO
CLAIM!



MANY ARE THE SAGAS OF ASGARD, THE MYSTICAL
LAND WHERE TITANS DWELL!! NEXT ISSUE WE
BRING YOU ANOTHER IN THIS, THE MOST WIDELY-
ACCLAIMED SERIES IN MODERN COMIC MAGAZINE
HISTORY!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

JOURNEY INTO IND.

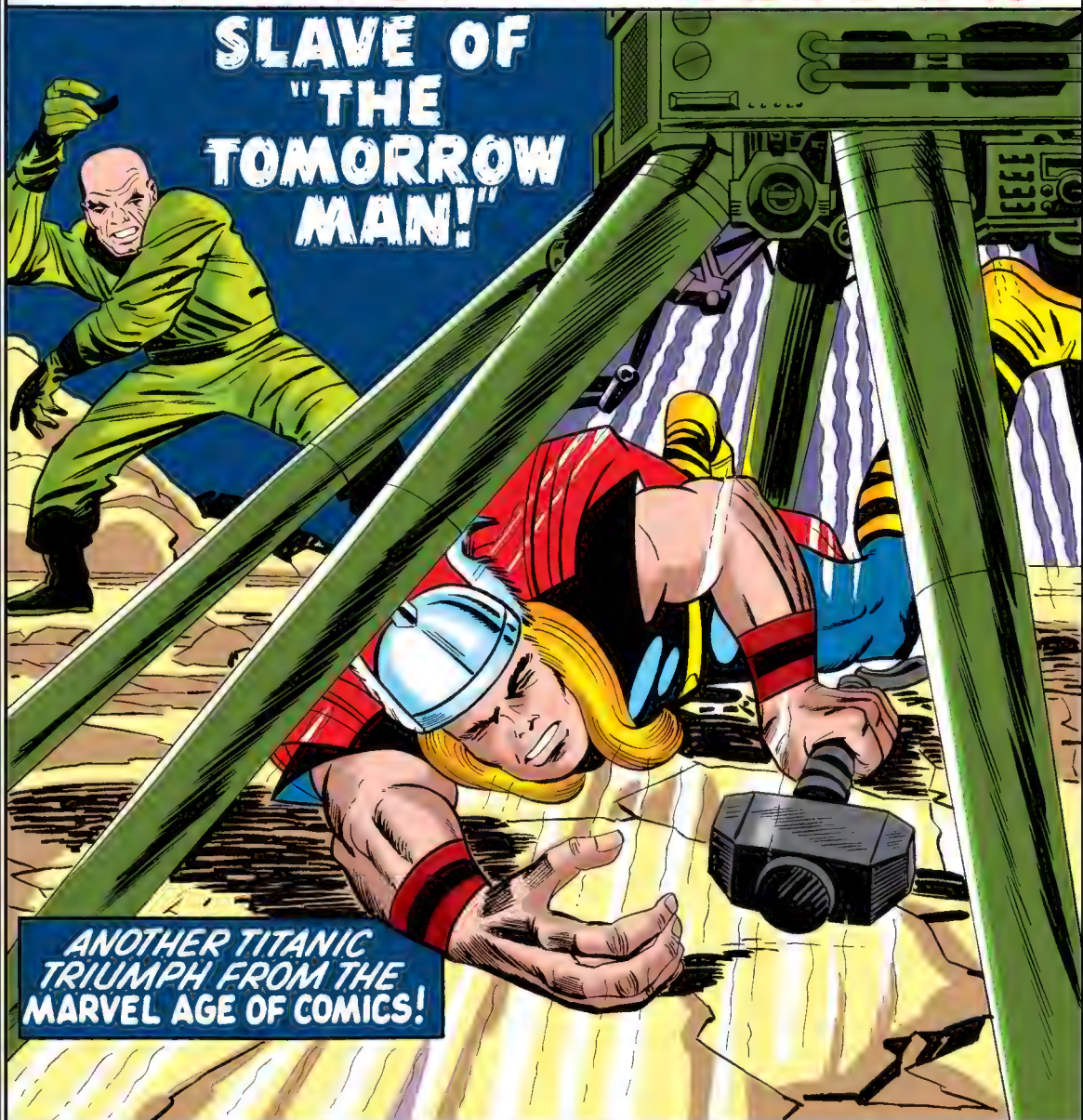


MYSTERY

102
MAR.

the **MIGHTY THOR!**

SLAVE OF
"THE
TOMORROW
MAN!"



ANOTHER TITANIC
TRIUMPH FROM THE
MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!

THE MIGHTY THOR! "SLAVE OF ZARRKO, The TOMORROW MAN!"

YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER
THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE,
WHERE THE MIGHTY THOR
MUST DO THE BIDDING OF
A MASTER VILLAIN!!
**ANOTHER
MARVEL TRIUMPH!**

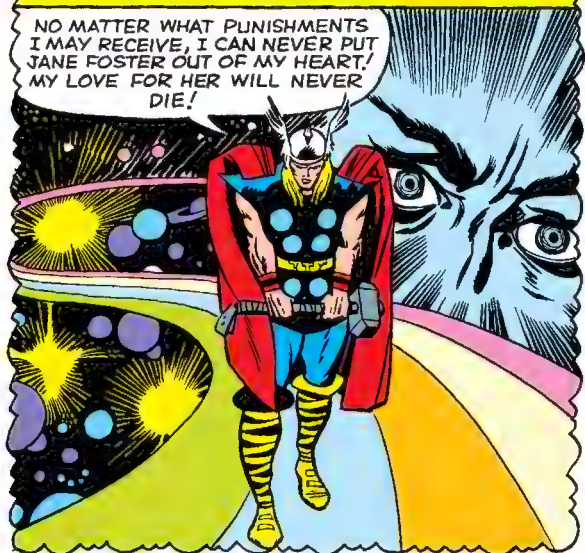
LET YOUR
THUNDERING
HAMMER
SERVE ME,
THOR!
I AM YOUR
MASTER!
YOU ARE
MY SLAVE!



CUNNINGLY CONCEIVED BY: STAN LEE
DARINGLY DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY
INGENIOUSLY INKED BY: CHIC STONE
LOVINGLY LETTERED BY: ART SIMEK

LAST ISSUE WE SAW HOW AN ANGRY ODIN, LORD OF THE NORSE GODS, REFUSED THOR ENTRY INTO ASGARD AND TOOK AWAY HALF OF HIS INVINCIBLE POWER! ALL BECAUSE OF THOR'S LOVE FOR A MORTAL EARTH GIRL!

NO MATTER WHAT PUNISHMENTS I MAY RECEIVE, I CAN NEVER PUT JANE FOSTER OUT OF MY HEART! MY LOVE FOR HER WILL NEVER DIE!



ALTHOUGH ODIN'S HEART IS HEAVY BECAUSE THOR IS IN TRUTH HIS FAVORITE SON, THERE IS ONE WHO REJOICES AT THE THUNDER GOD'S PREDICAMENT! THE EVIL LOKI, GOD OF MISCHIEF, AND THOR'S HALF-BROTHER, DECIDES THE TIME HAS COME TO PLAY HIS HAND!

NOW, WHILE THOR IS WEAKER THAN HE HAS EVER BEEN, I MUST FIND A MORTAL TO DEFEAT HIM FOR ME!



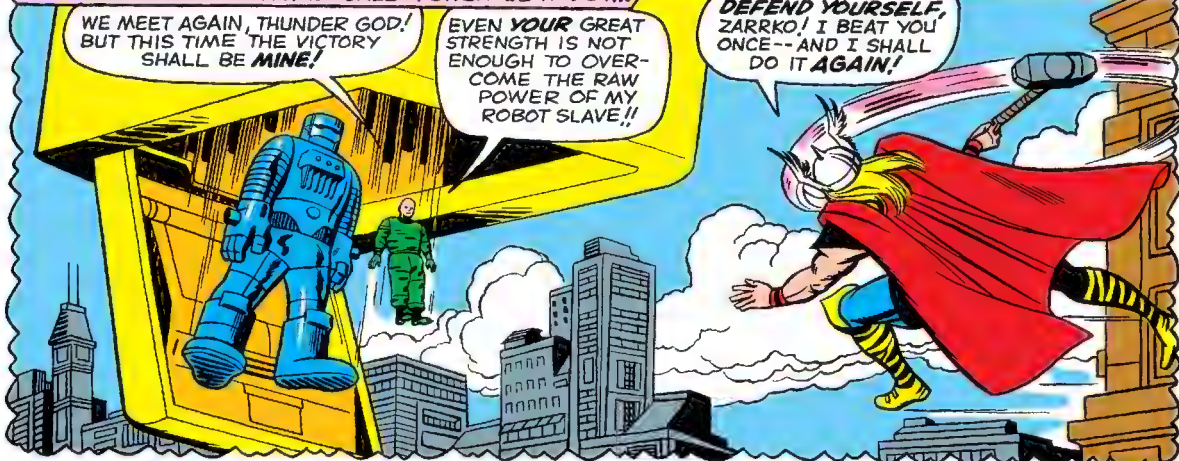
AH, THERE IS THE ONE I SEEK! THERE-- IN THE 23RD CENTURY!

LOKI HAS FOUND ZARRKO, THE SINISTER SCIENTIST FROM THE FUTURE. WHOM THOR HAD DEFEATED ONCE BEFORE! * LOKI RESTORES ZARRKO'S MEMORY TO HIM, AND THE TOMORROW MAN RETURNS TO THE 20TH CENTURY WITH A FANTASTICALLY POWERFUL ROBOT...

WE MEET AGAIN, THUNDER GOD! BUT THIS TIME THE VICTORY SHALL BE MINE!

EVEN YOUR GREAT STRENGTH IS NOT ENOUGH TO OVERCOME THE RAW POWER OF MY ROBOT SLAVE!!

DEFEND YOURSELF, ZARRKO! I BEAT YOU ONCE-- AND I SHALL DO IT AGAIN!

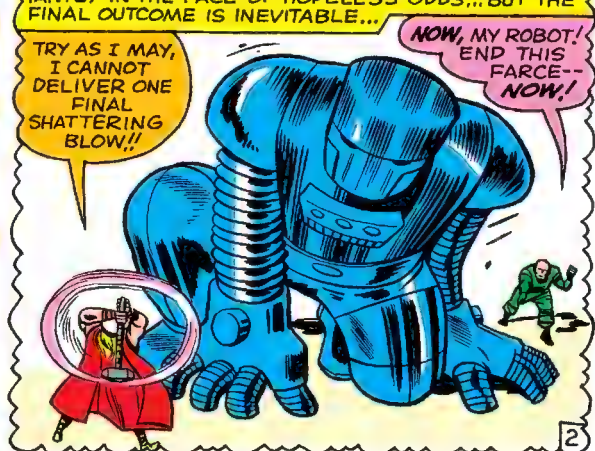
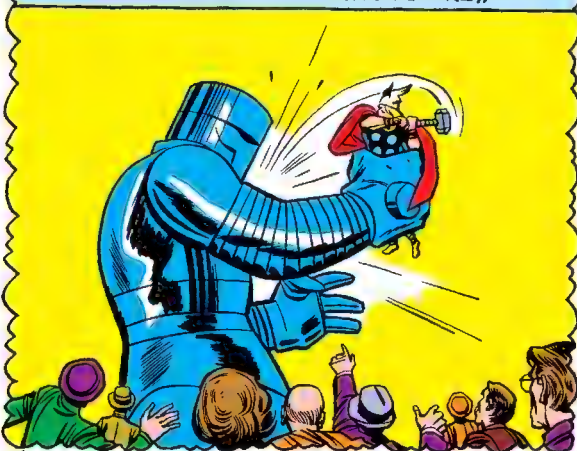


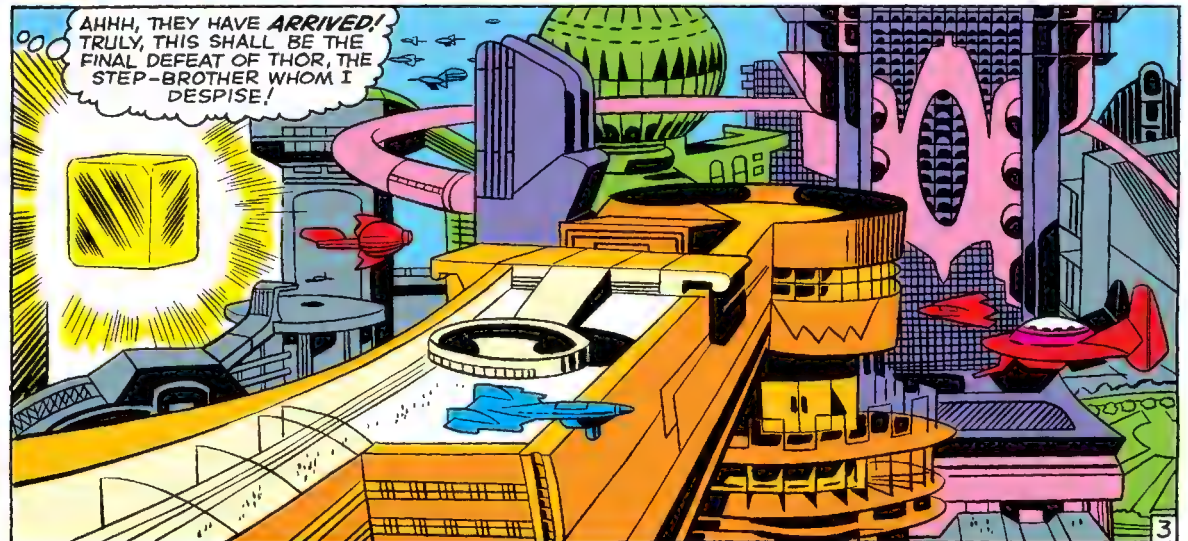
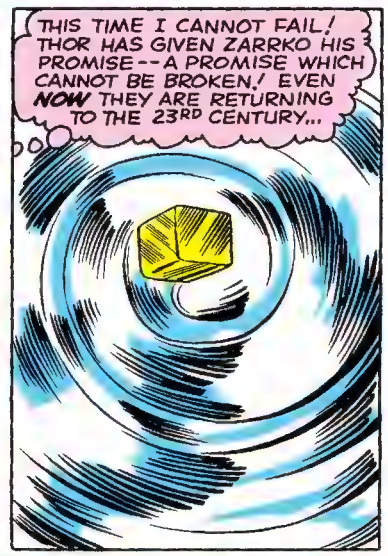
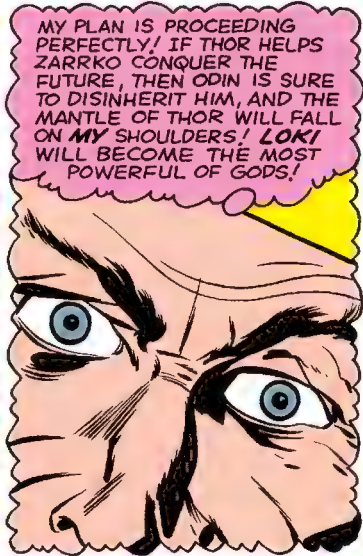
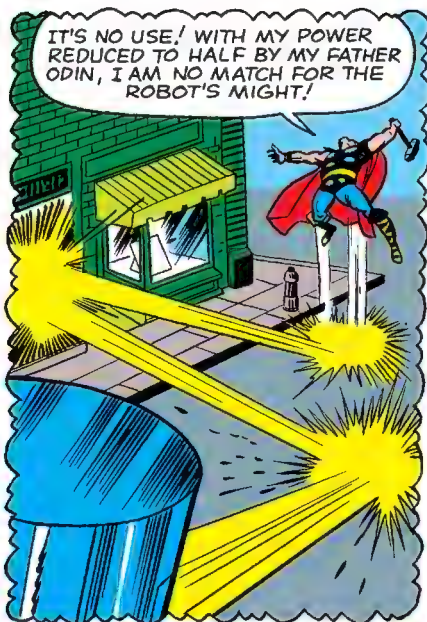
BUT, BECAUSE ODIN HAS TAKEN HALF HIS POWER FROM HIM, THE MIGHTY THOR FINDS HE CANNOT STOP THE GIGANTIC ROBOT FROM THE FUTURE!!

NEVER HAVE MORTAL EYES WITNESSED SUCH A BATTLE! NEVER HAS ONE LONE CHAMPION FOUGHT SO VALIANTLY IN THE FACE OF HOPELESS ODDS... BUT THE FINAL OUTCOME IS INEVITABLE...

TRY AS I MAY, I CANNOT DELIVER ONE FINAL SHATTERING BLOW!!

NOW, MY ROBOT! END THIS FARCE-- NOW!





AND SO, MIGHTY THOR RETURNS TO THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE, BUT, NOT IN VICTORY AS HE DID ONCE BEFORE, INSTEAD, HE FINDS HIMSELF THE PROMISED SLAVE OF MERCILESS ZARRKO!

YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ME TO MY QUARTERS IMMEDIATELY, THUNDER GOD!

VERY WELL, ZARRKO!

THERE ARE NO WEAPONS IN THIS ENLIGHTENED AGE--NO POLICE FORCES! WITH YOU FIGHTING FOR ME, NONE CAN RESIST ME!

I HAVE GIVEN YOU MY OATH, EVIL ZARRKO! I SHALL DO AS YOU COMMAND--THOUGH MY VERY SOUL CRIES OUT IN PROTEST!

A SHORT TIME LATER...

NOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN REFRESHED BY MY ROBO-SERVANTS, I SHALL TELL YOU YOUR DUTIES!

YOU WILL USE THE POWER OF YOUR HAMMER TO SUBDUDE THE POPULACE INTO COMPLETE SUBMISSION TO MY WILL, YOU WILL CONQUER THE 23RD CENTURY FOR ME!

AND SO, WE TURN TO A TYPICAL STREET SCENE, AS PEDESTRIANS RIDE THE MOVING SIDEWALKS OF THE FUTURE...

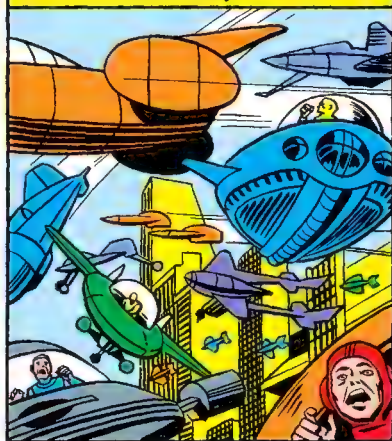
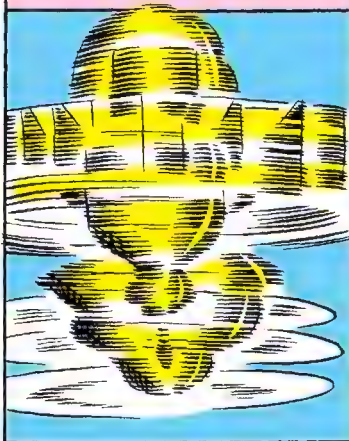
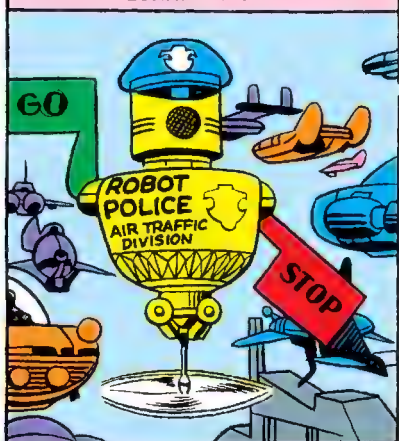
SUDDENLY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES, SOMETHING GOES WRONG--AS THOUGH A MIGHTY HAMMER HAS SMASHED THE CENTRAL CONTROL MECHANISM!

ACCIDENTS BEGIN TO OCCUR WITH ALARMING FREQUENCY! REMOTE CONTROL AIRBORNE DELIVERY VEHICLES ARE SUDDENLY SMASHED FROM THE SKY, AS IF BY MAGIC!

HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ROBOTS, WHICH PERFORM MENIAL TASKS, SUDDENLY FIND THEIR ELECTRONIC GUIDANCE SYSTEMS NOT OPERATING CORRECTLY...

...CONFUSED, UNCERTAIN, RENDERED USELESS BY THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR MAIN POWER DYNAMO STATIONS, THEY WHIRL OUT OF CONTROL...

...CAUSING TRAFFIC JAMS, PANIC, AND A GENERAL SLOWDOWN OF ALL THE VITAL SERVICES WHICH A CIVILIZATION NEEDS IF IT IS TO SURVIVE!



FINALLY, AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN THE INCREDIBLE ACCIDENTS AND MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS, THE PEOPLE SUDDENLY REALIZE THE ANSWER AS THEY SEE, BOLDLY WALKING THRU THE STREET...

LOOK! IT'S ZARRKO! THE EVIL SCIENTIST! HIS MEMORY MUST HAVE RETURNED!

BUT LOOK WHO'S WITH HIM! IT'S THE MIGHTY THOR-- THE ONE WHO DEFEATED ZARRKO MONTHS AGO! NOW HE SEEMS TO BE HIS ALLY!



BACK! STAND BACK! MAKE WAY FOR ZARRKO AND HIS INVINCIBLE SLAVE, THE MIGHTY THOR!

IT IS THOR WHO HAS CAUSED THE ACCIDENTS OF THE PAST FEW HOURS-- AT MY COMMAND-- TO DEMONSTRATE MY ABSOLUTE MASTERY OVER HIM!



ALTHOUGH THE WORLD OF THE 23RD CENTURY HAS NO OFFICIAL POLICE FORCE, BECAUSE THERE IS NO CRIME, THEY DO HAVE UNIFORMED TECHNI-GUARDS, WHOSE DUTY IT IS TO PROTECT THE MACHINES WHICH SERVE MANKIND! SUDDENLY, A SMALL SQUAD OF SUCH GUARDS APPEARS...

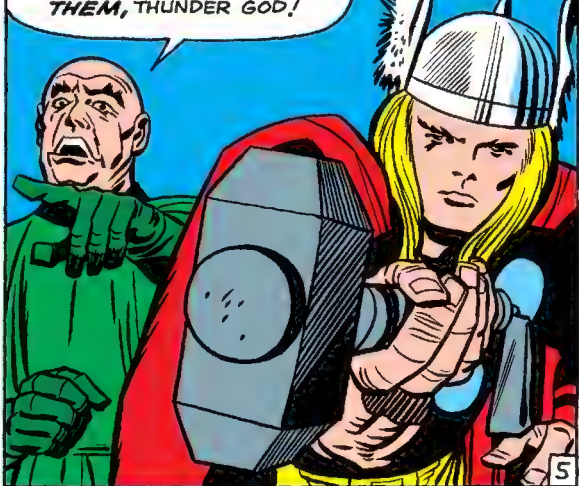
STAND AT EASE, ZARRKO! WE SHALL TAKE YOU BEFORE THE WORLD COUNCIL!

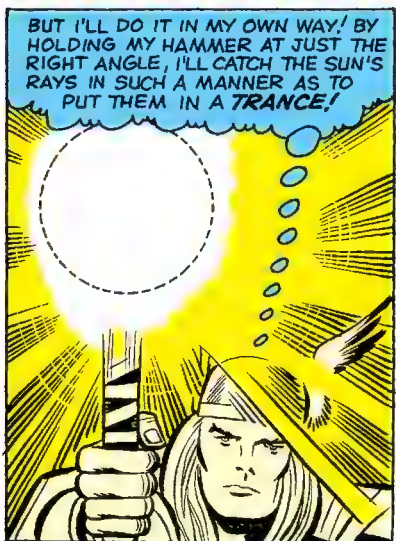
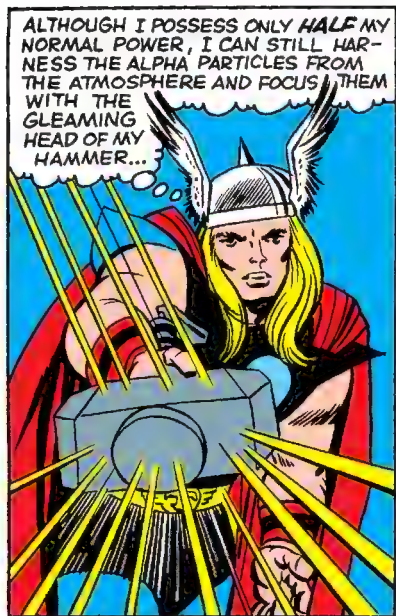
NO! NOT YET! NOT UNTIL I AM READY! I OBEY NO OTHER COMMANDS!

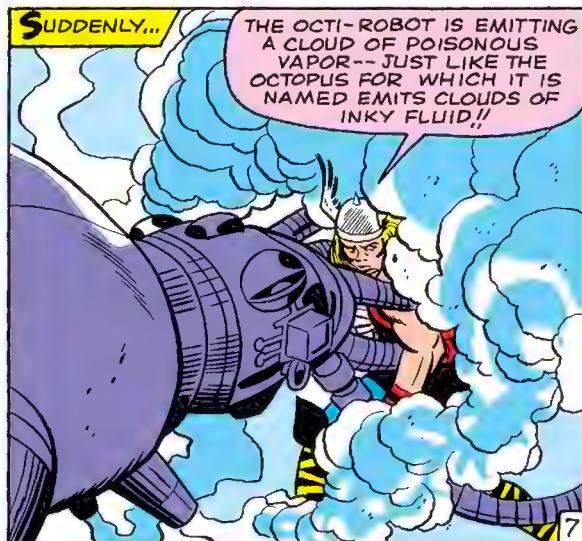
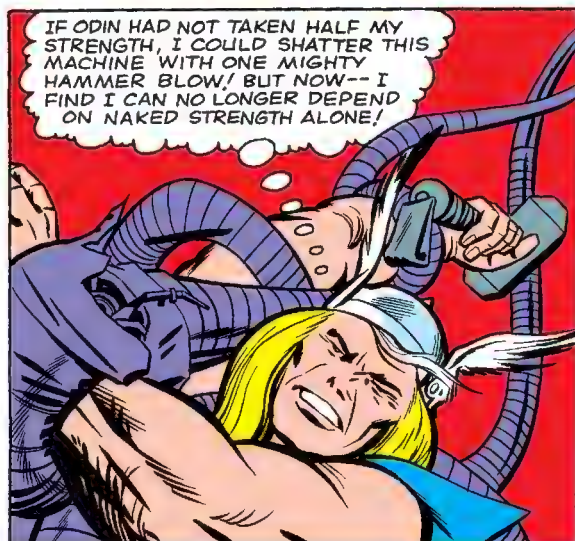
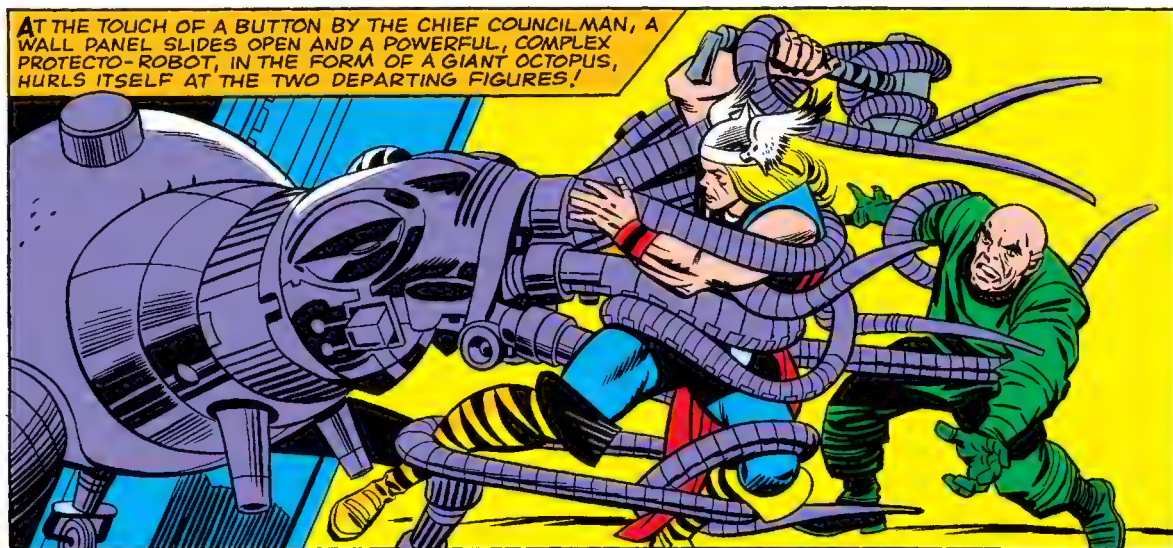
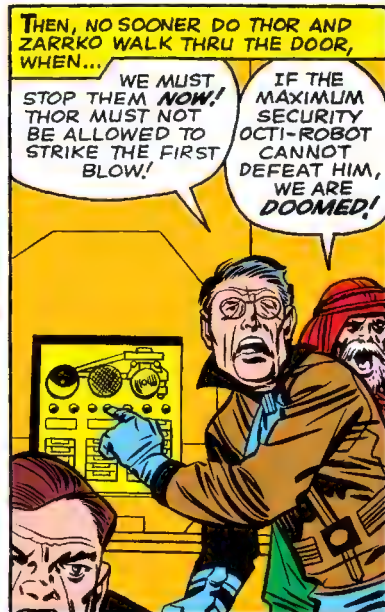


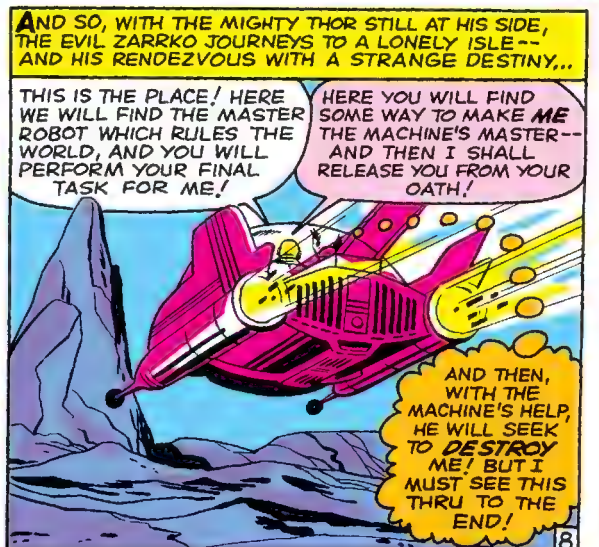
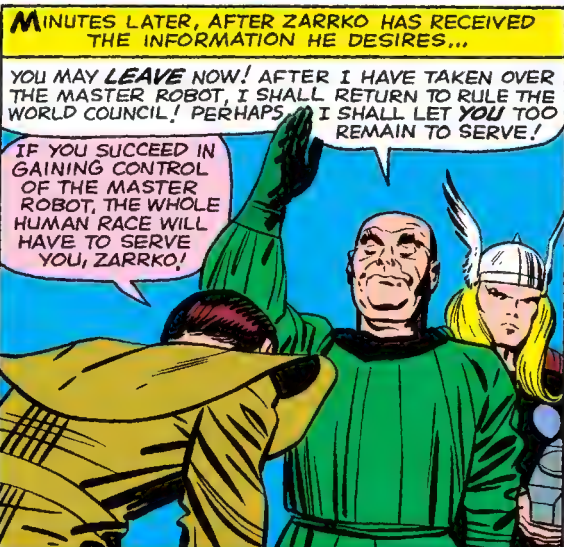
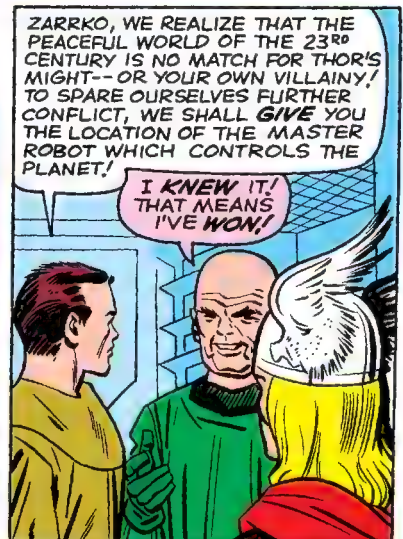
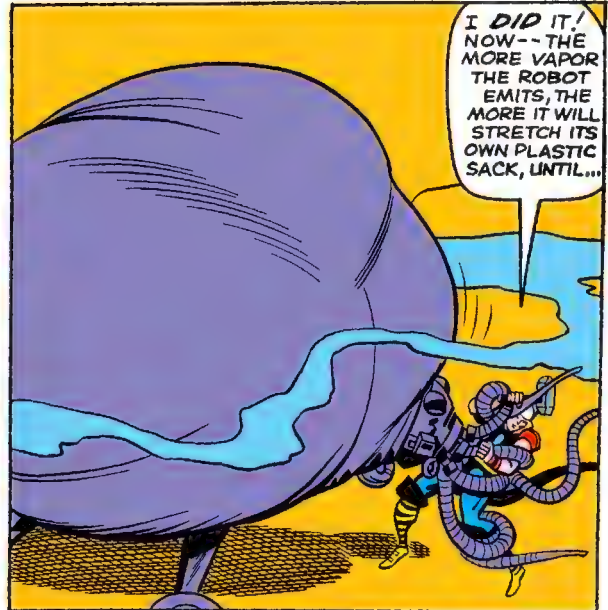
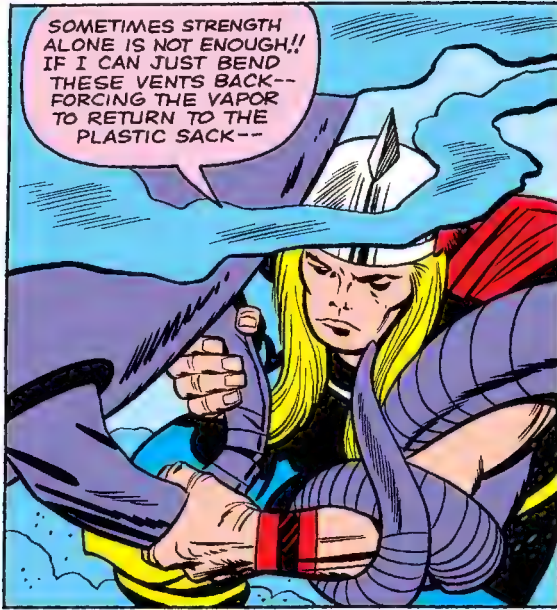
THOSE INSTRUMENTS YOU HOLD ARE NOT REALLY WEAPONS! THEY ARE MEANT ONLY TO CONTROL DEFECTIVE MACHINES! THEY CANNOT THREATEN THOR! DESTROY THEM, THUNDER GOD!

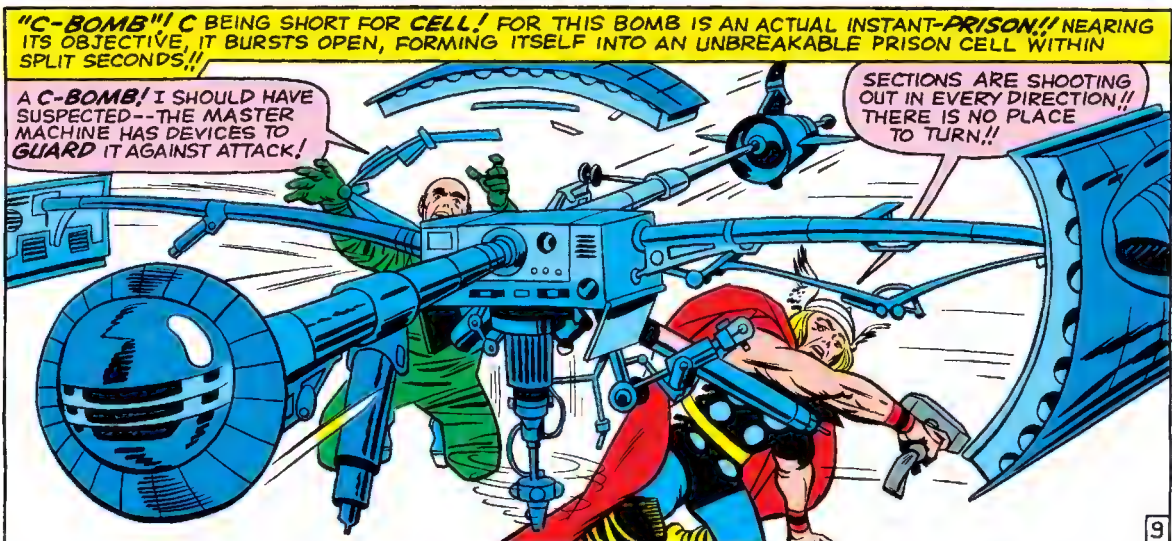
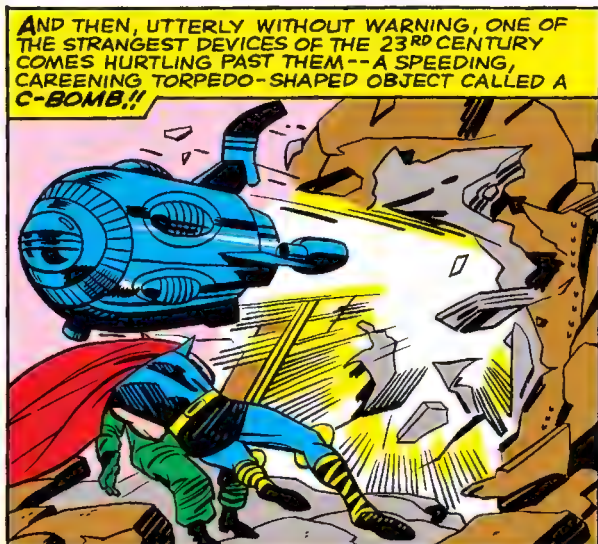
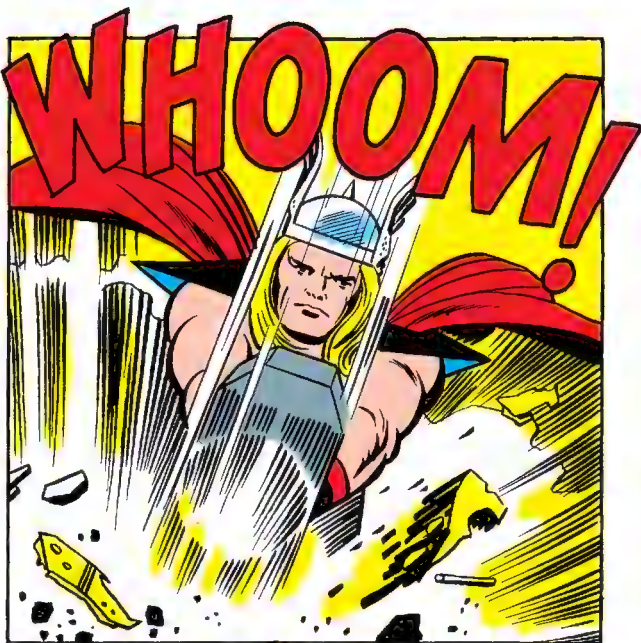
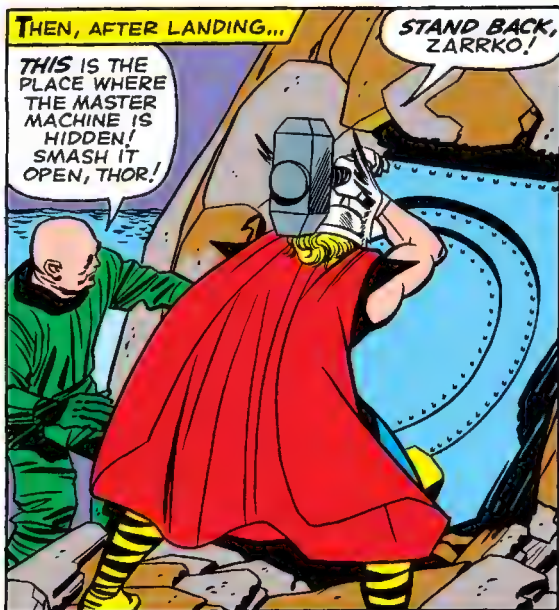
I MUST DO AS I AM BIDDEN!

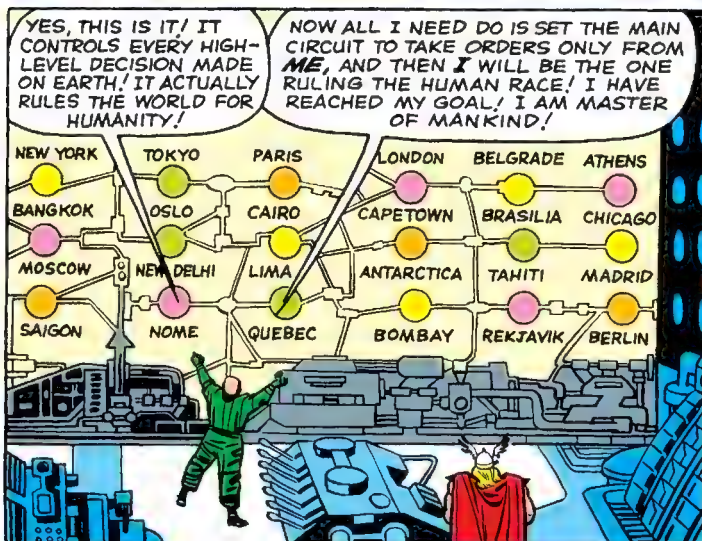
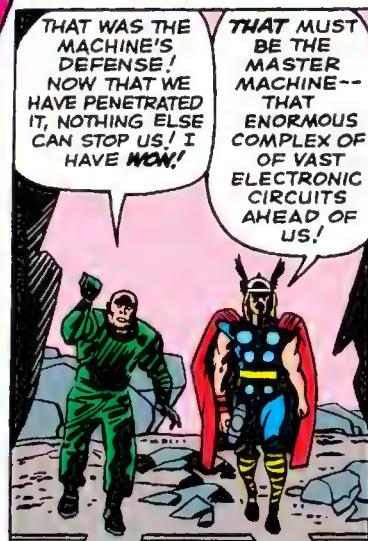
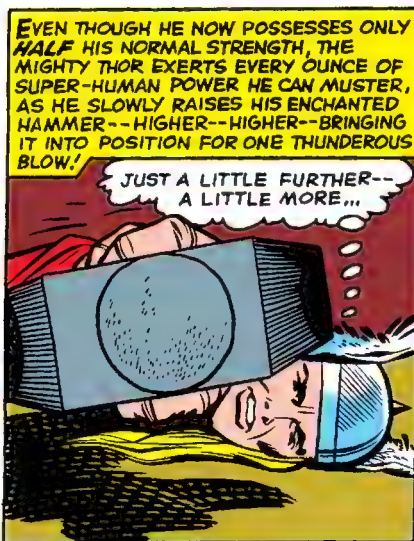
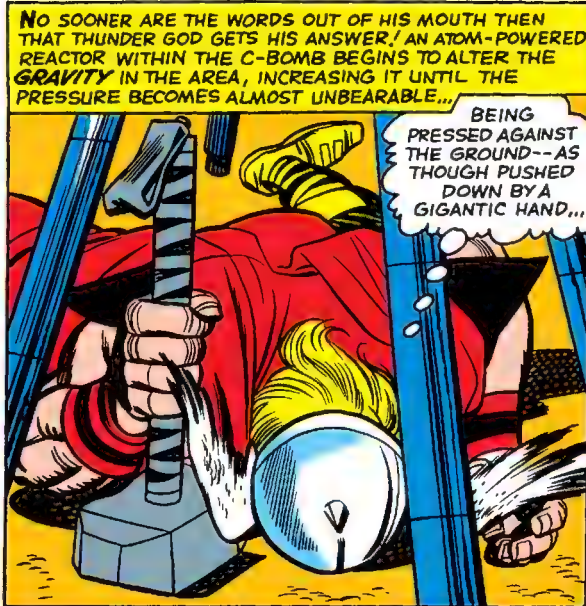
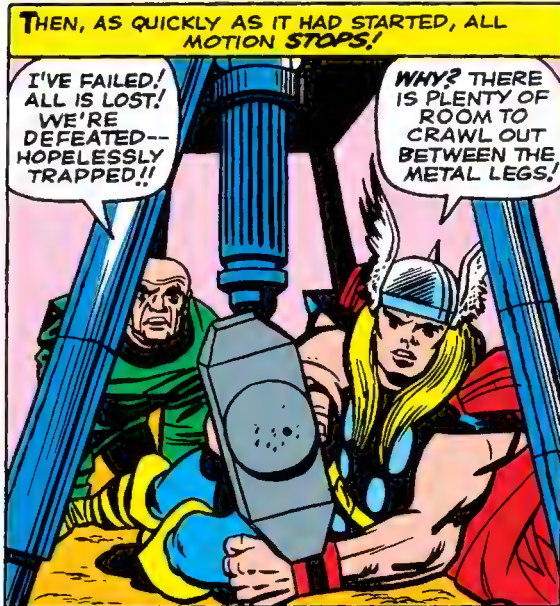


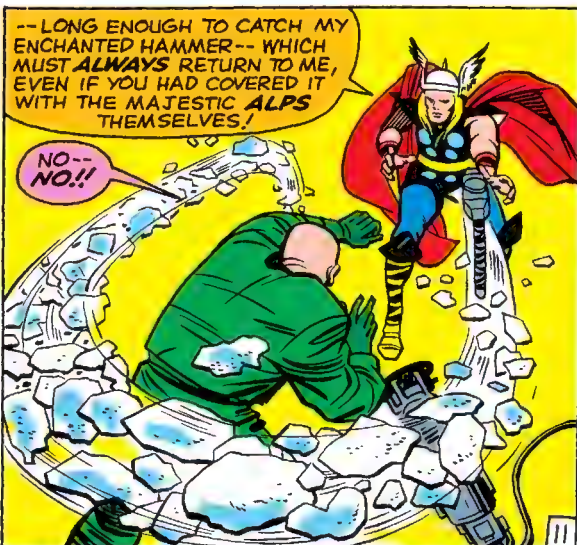
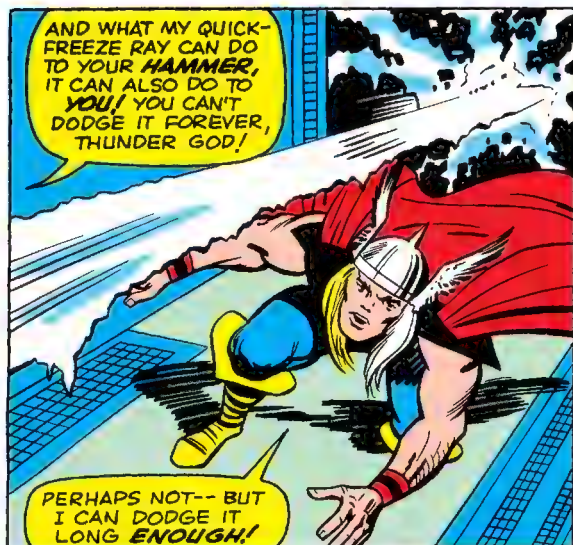
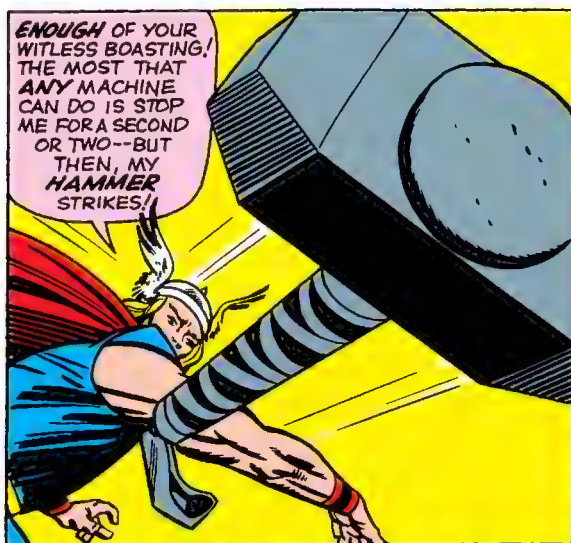










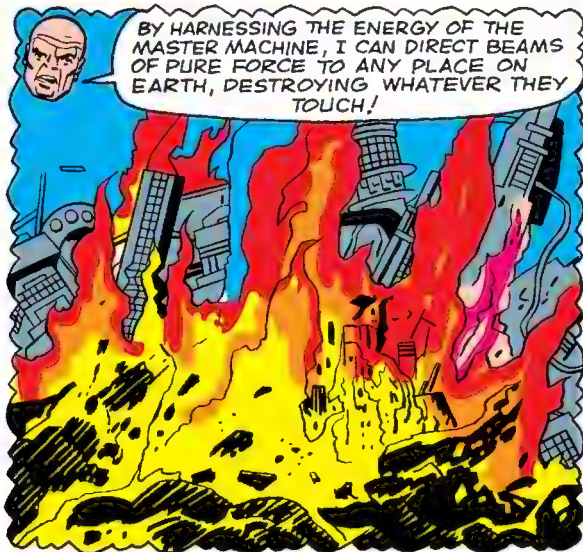




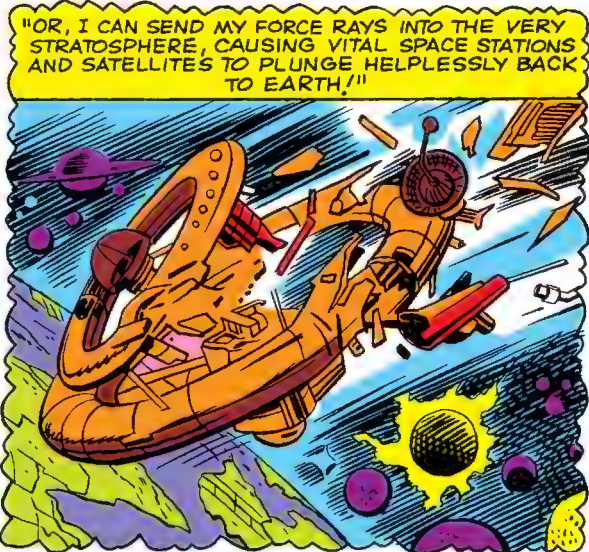
STAY BACK! YOU CAN'T GET ME! YOU **MUSTN'T** GET ME! NOT WHEN I HAVE REACHED MY GOAL! NOT WHEN I'M BEYOND THE LAW!



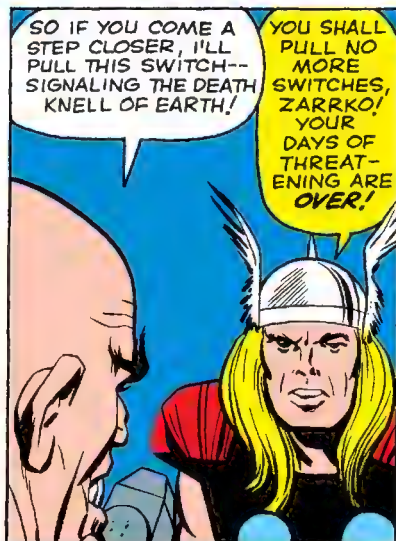
I ALONE, OF ALL THE SPINELESS MILKSOPS IN THIS CENTURY, DARED TO COMMIT A CRIME! AND, IF YOU DO NOT **HALT**, I WILL PULL THIS LEVER AND COMMIT **ANOTHER**!



BY HARNESSING THE ENERGY OF THE MASTER MACHINE, I CAN DIRECT BEAMS OF PURE FORCE TO ANY PLACE ON EARTH, DESTROYING WHATEVER THEY TOUCH!

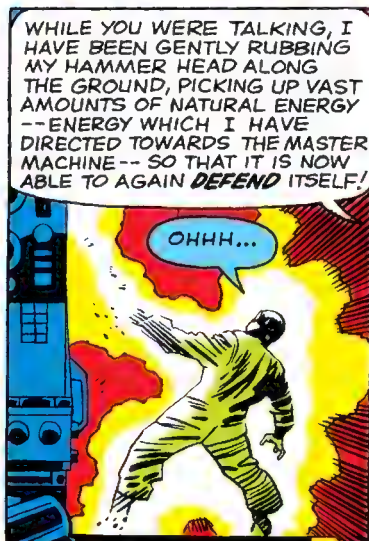


"OR, I CAN SEND MY FORCE RAYS INTO THE VERY STRATOSPHERE, CAUSING VITAL SPACE STATIONS AND SATELLITES TO PLUNGE HELPLESSLY BACK TO EARTH!"



SO IF YOU COME A STEP CLOSER, I'LL PULL THIS SWITCH-- SIGNALING THE DEATH KNELL OF EARTH!

YOU SHALL PULL NO MORE SWITCHES, ZARRKO! YOUR DAYS OF THREATENING ARE OVER!



WHILE YOU WERE TALKING, I HAVE BEEN GENTLY RUBBING MY HAMMER HEAD ALONG THE GROUND, PICKING UP VAST AMOUNTS OF NATURAL ENERGY -- ENERGY WHICH I HAVE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE MASTER MACHINE-- SO THAT IT IS NOW ABLE TO AGAIN **DEFEND** ITSELF!

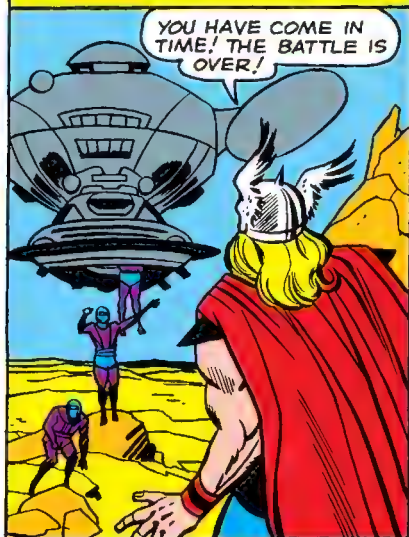
OH... OH...



I-I CAN SEE-- HEAR-- I CAN **BREATHE**! BUT -- I CAN'T GET OUT! I'M ENCLOSED IN SOME SORT OF A BALL OF SEMI-SOLID ENERGY MATTER!

AND THERE YOU WILL STAY TILL THEY COME FOR YOU! DID YOU THINK THAT A MASTER MACHINE WHICH GOVERNS EARTH WOULD ONLY HAVE **ONE** DEFENSE WEAPON AT ITS DISPOSAL??

A SHORT TIME LATER, AN OFFICIAL SCOUT SHIP OF THE WORLD COUNCIL REACHES THE THUNDER GOD...



YOU HAVE COME IN TIME! THE BATTLE IS OVER!

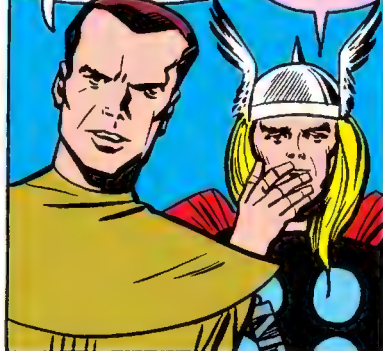
THERE IS YOUR PRISONER. I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD HIM THIS TIME!



HE SHALL BE KEPT IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY AREA!

WHEN YOU LEFT YOUR NOTE ON THE TABLE, A SHORT TIME AGO, I WAS PUZZLED AT FIRST! BUT THEN, REMEMBERING WHAT OUR STUDY OF LEGENDS HAS SAID ABOUT YOU IN SCHOOL, I WAS SURE YOU COULD BE TRUSTED!

I AM GLAD YOU HONORED THE REQUEST I WROTE-- ASKING YOU TO LET ME HANDLE ZARRKO IN MY OWN WAY!

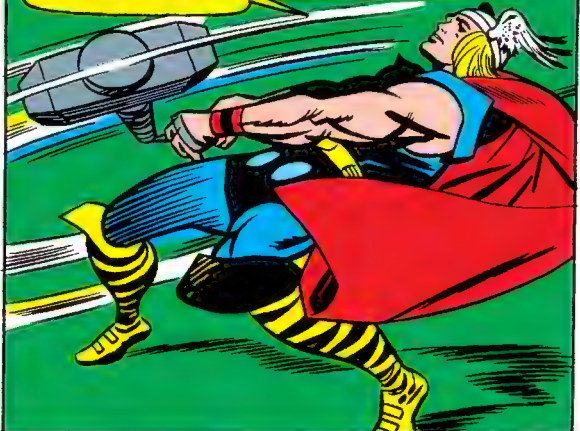


THOR, TO YOU THIS IS PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER ONE OF A THOUSAND VICTORIES -- BUT TO THOSE OF US LIVING IN THIS CENTURY, YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING WHICH WE SHALL NEVER FORGET!

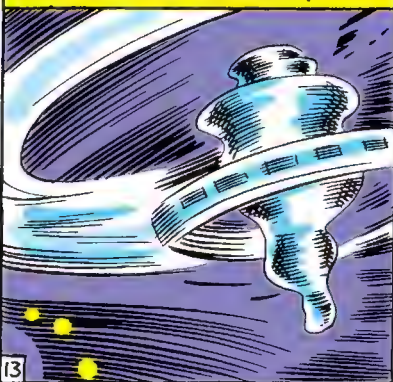
EVERY VICTORY OVER THE FORCES OF EVIL IS AN IMPORTANT ONE, MY FRIEND! BUT NOW, I MUST RETURN TO MY OWN CENTURY...



STAND BACK! I HAVE NO TIME MACHINE TO TRAVEL IN, BUT MY HAMMER WILL SERVE ME WELL. BY SWINGING IT AT EXACTLY TWICE THE SPEED OF LIGHT, I CAN MOVE BACKWARD OR FORWARD IN TIME!



AND SO, THE HANDSOME, DRAMATIC GOD OF THUNDER, HIS MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, SLIPS BACK THRU THE CENTURIES, COMING EVER CLOSER TO THE PRESENT DAY -- AND TO THE HEARTACHES IN STORE FOR THE SON OF ODIN WHO DARES TO LOVE A MORTAL!



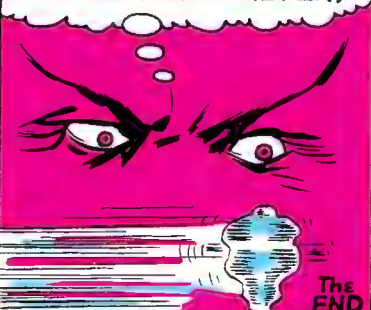
WHILE, HIGH ABOVE IN FABLED ASGARD...

DID YOU SEE, LOKI! MY FAVORITE SON DID NOT FAIL ME! HE ONLY SEEMED TO BE IN LEAGUE WITH THE MORTAL, UNTIL HE HAD CARRIED OUT HIS OATH!



BAH! EVERYTHING WENT WRONG WITH MY PLAN! THOR IS BACK IN FAVOR WITH ODIN AGAIN!

BUT TIME IS ENDLESS, AND I, TOO, AM AN IMMORTAL! SOONER OR LATER I SHALL DEFEAT THE ACCURSED THOR! AND WHEN I DO -- IT WILL BE FOREVER!



The END

AND SO WE LEAVE ONE OF THE MOST COLORFUL OF ALL SUPER-HEROES AS HE HURTTLES BACK THRU THE CENTURIES TO ONE OF THE WEIRDEST ADVENTURES OF ALL TIME! BUT, THAT'S A TALE FOR NEXT ISSUE...

Tales of
ASGARD

HOME OF THE
MIGHTY NORSE
GODS!

The **BOYHOOD** of *THOR!*

AT THE AGE
OF
EIGHTEEN!

"DEATH" COMES TO THOR!

AT LAST I'VE
FOUND THE THREE
FATES! THEY CAN
TELL ME IF I SHALL
EVER BE AWARDED
ODIN'S MAGIC
HAMMER!

WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE

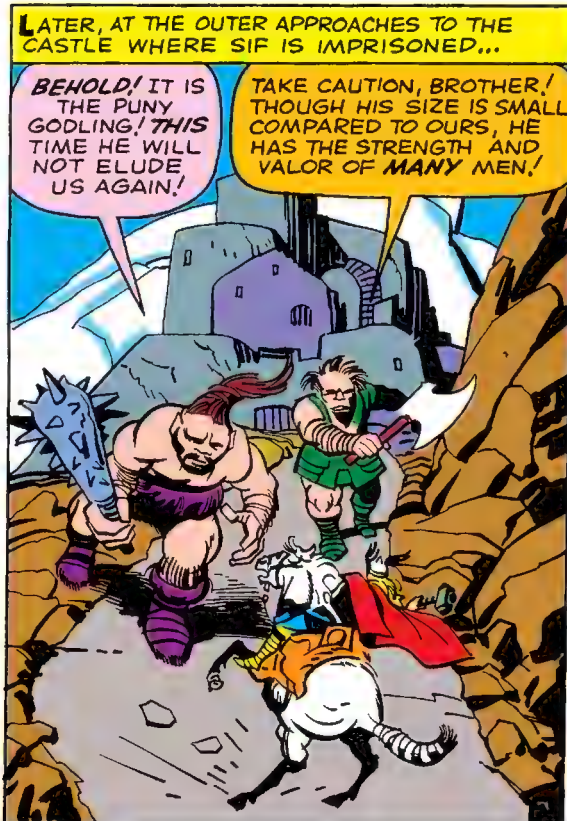
ILLUSTRATED BY:
JACK KIRBY

INKED BY:
PAUL REINMAN

LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK

NOTE: THE EDITORS ARE PLEASED TO
ANNOUNCE THAT "TALES OF ASGARD" HAS
BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR
SERIES IN COMICDOM, AND HAS WON
ITSELF A PERMANENT PLACE AMONG
THE MARVEL ROSTER OF FABULOUS
FEATURES!



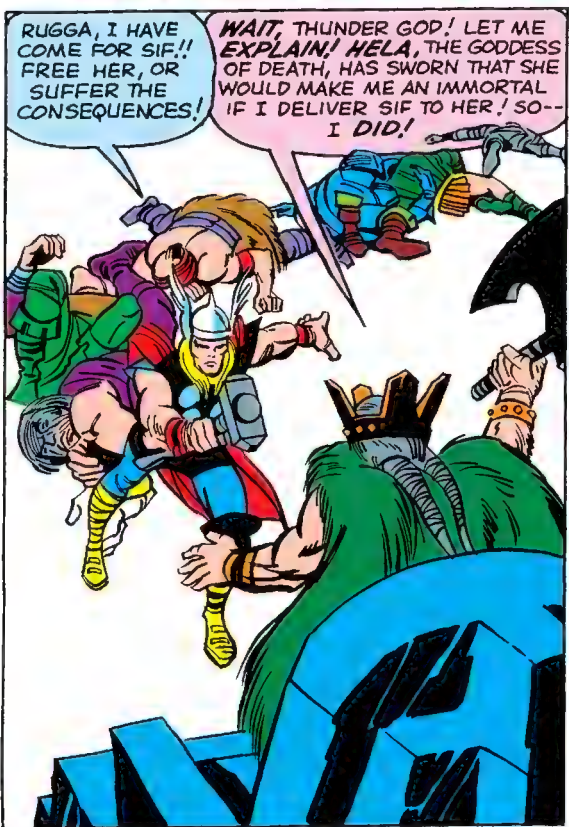




AND NOW TO RESCUE
THE SISTER OF MY
FRIEND BALDER!!



I KNOW THIS PLACE WELL! IT IS
THE CASTLE OF KING RUGGA!
THOUGH HE IS NOT A GOD HIMSELF,
IT IS HIS DEAREST DESIRE TO
BECOME ONE!



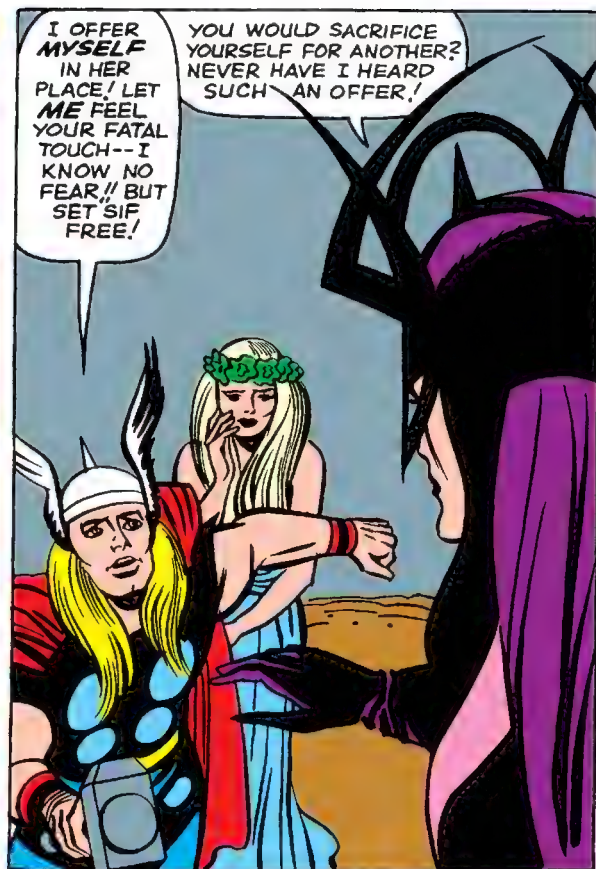
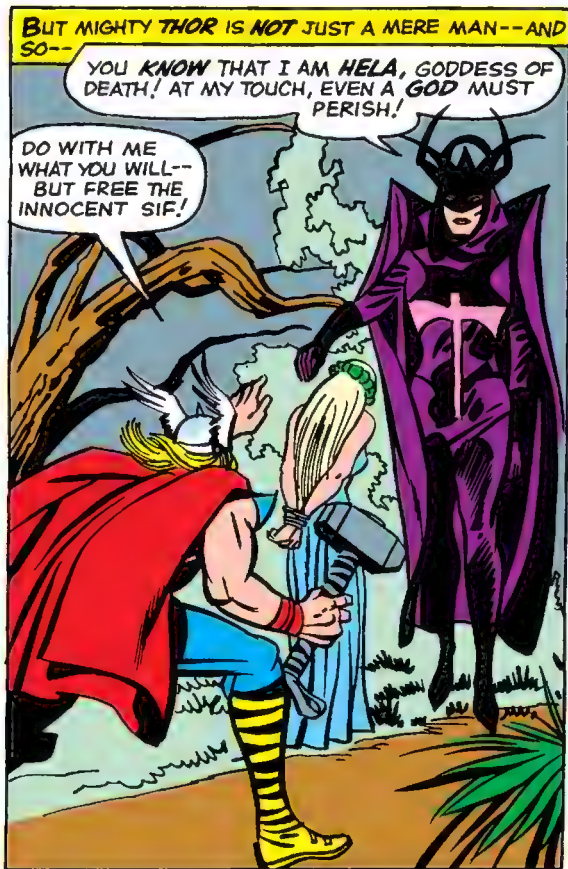
RUGGA, I HAVE
COME FOR SIF!!
FREE HER, OR
SUFFER THE
CONSEQUENCES!

*WAIT, THUNDER GOD! LET ME
EXPLAIN! HELA, THE GODDESS
OF DEATH, HAS SWORN THAT SHE
WOULD MAKE ME AN IMMORTAL
IF I DELIVER SIF TO HER! SO--
I DID!*



*HEARTLESS ONE! YOU
WOULD ACCEPT LIFE AT
THE EXPENSE OF SOME-
ONE ELSE'S DEATH??!
TELL ME-- WHERE CAN
I FIND HELA! SPEAK!*

DO NOT HARM ME!
I SHALL TELL YOU
WHERE TO FIND HER!
BUT NO MAN IN HIS
RIGHT MIND GOES
TO FIND THE
GODDESS OF DEATH!



NEXT ISSUE:
ANOTHER
TALE OF
ASGARD,
FEATURING
THE NOBLEST
SUPER-HERO
OF THEM
ALL--THE
MIGHTY
THOR!!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

JOURNEY INTO

IND.



MYSTERY

103
APR.

CAN MIGHTY THOR DEFEAT TWO OF THE STRANGEST SUPER-MENACES OF ALL TIME?

IMMORTAL
VS.
IMMORTAL!!
THOR'S MOST
TITANIC BATTLE!!

The
ENCHANTRESS
And The
EXECUTIONER!

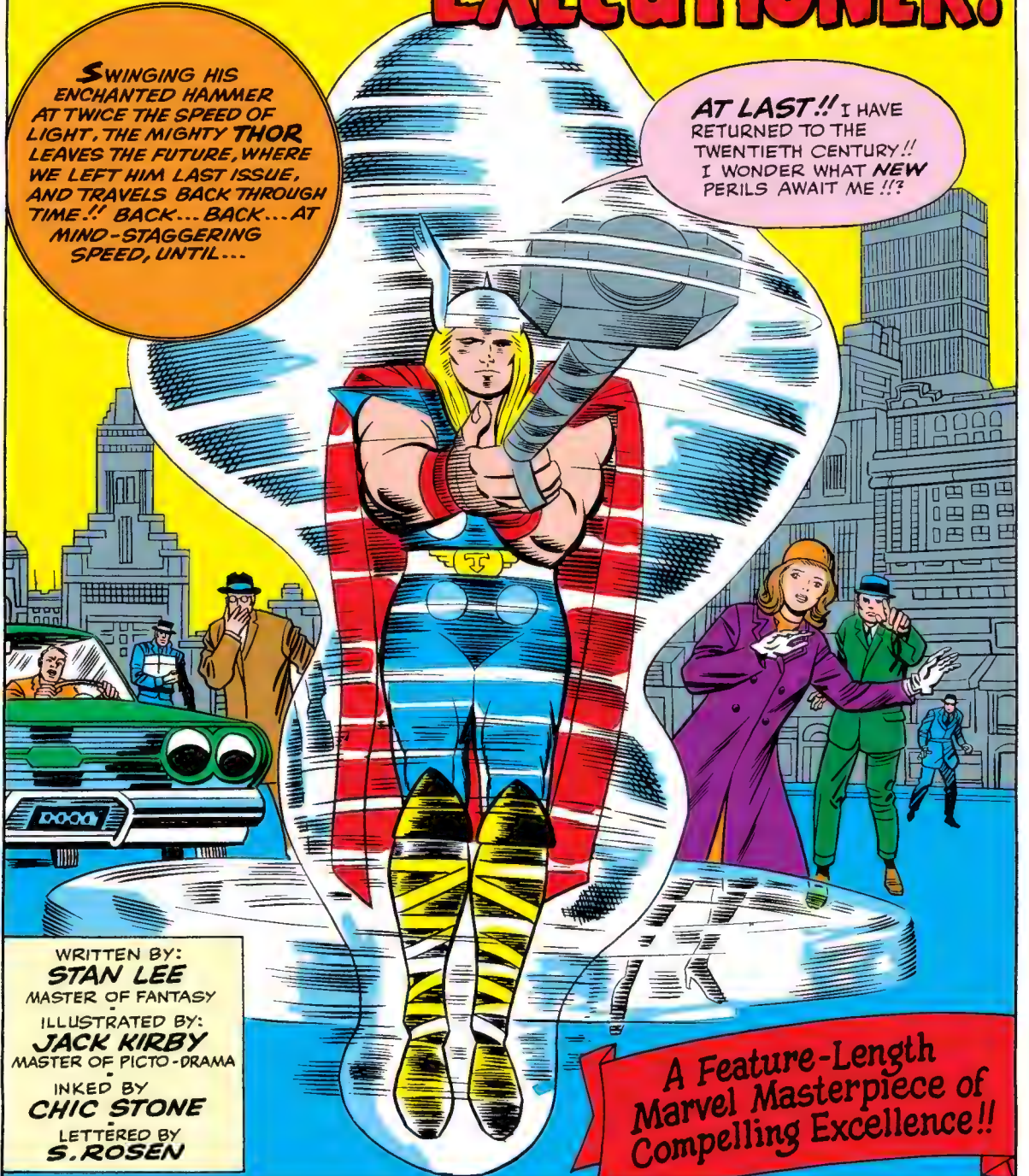
WE PROMISE
THAT YOU WILL
NEVER FORGET
THE BREATH-TAKING
ENCHANTRESS!



THE MIGHTY THOR! MENACED BY "THE ENCHANTRESS AND THE EXECUTIONER!"

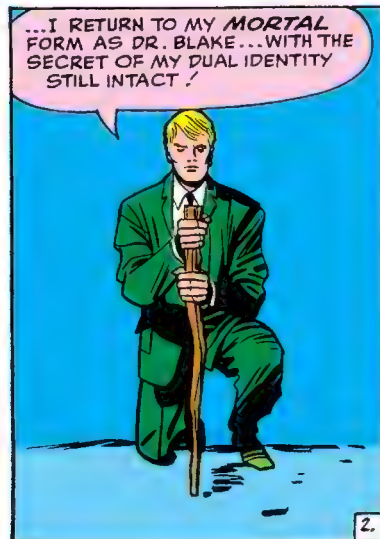
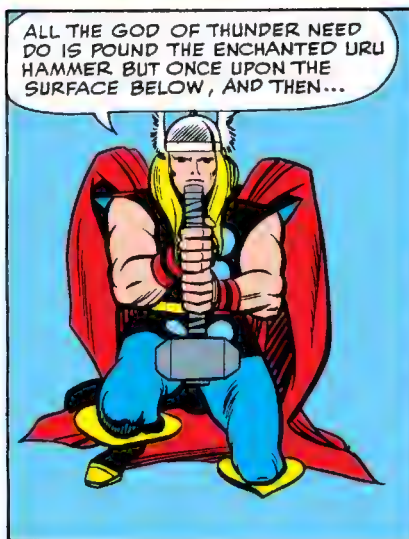
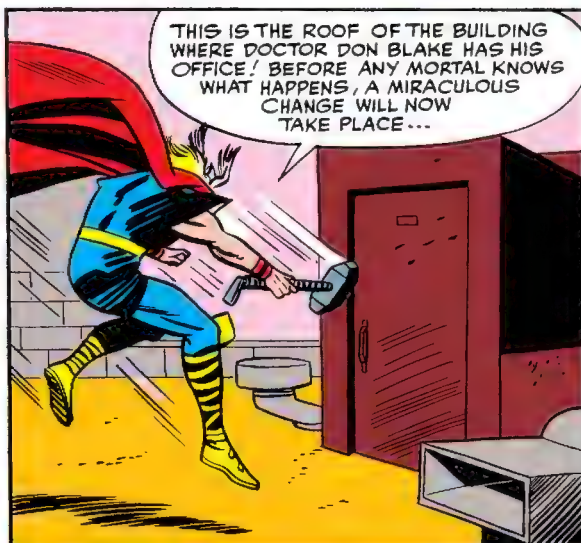
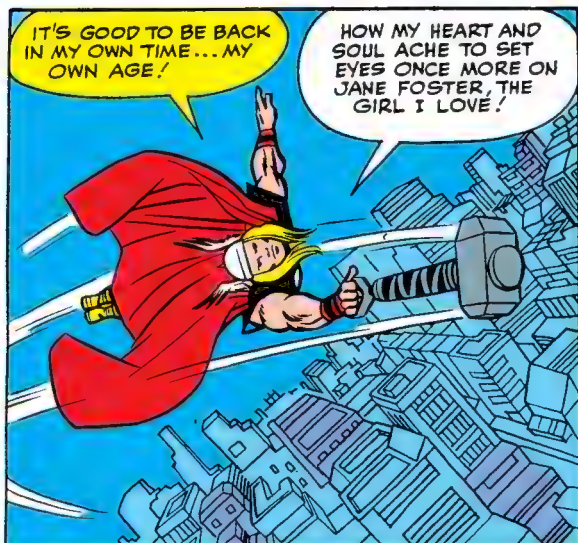
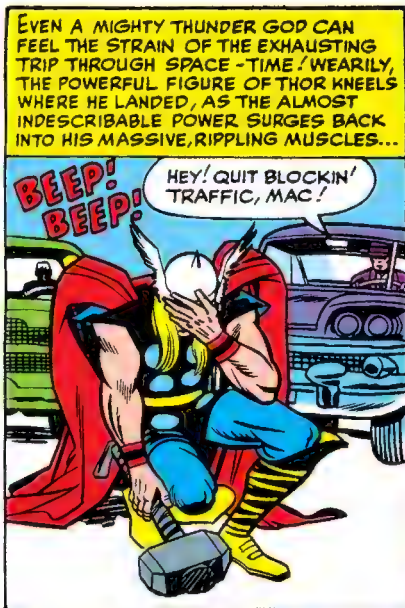
SWINGING HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER AT TWICE THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE MIGHTY THOR LEAVES THE FUTURE, WHERE WE LEFT HIM LAST ISSUE, AND TRAVELS BACK THROUGH TIME!! BACK... BACK... AT MIND-STAGGERING SPEED, UNTIL...

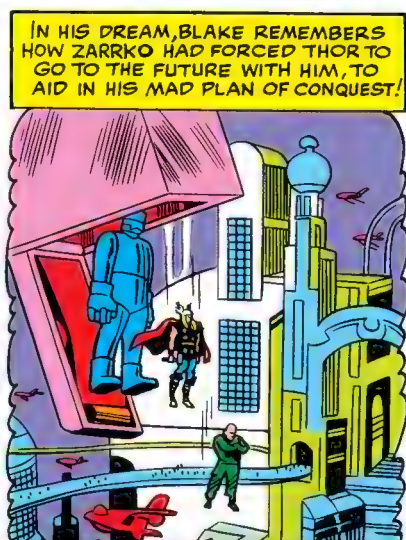
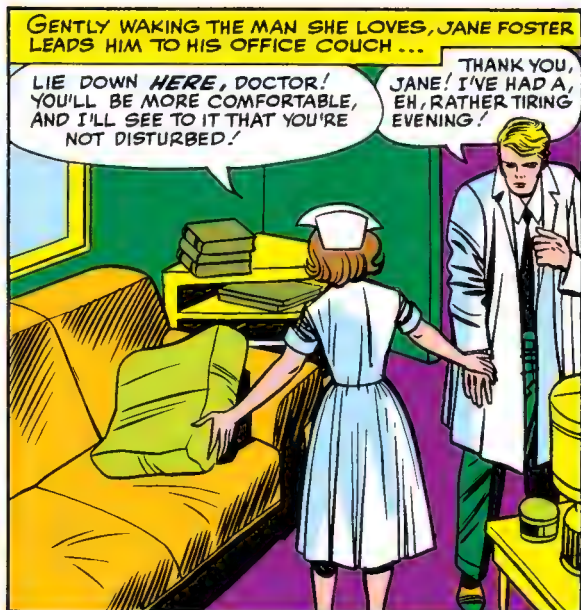
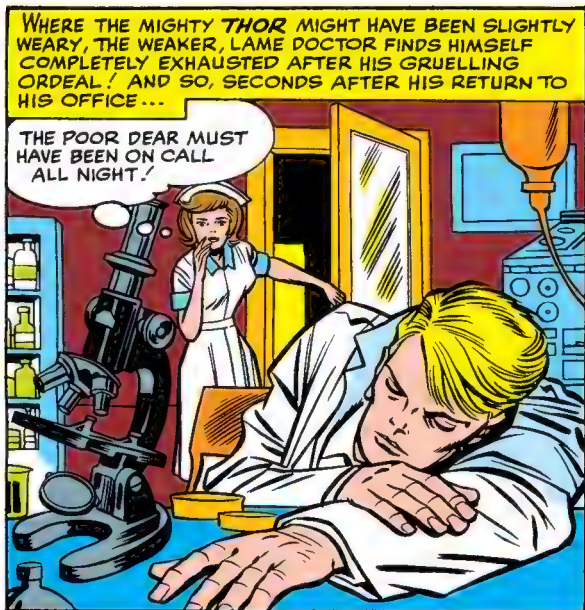
AT LAST!! I HAVE RETURNED TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY!! I WONDER WHAT NEW PERILS AWAIT ME!!?



WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE
MASTER OF FANTASY
ILLUSTRATED BY:
JACK KIRBY
MASTER OF PICTO-DRAMA
INKED BY
CHIC STONE
LETTERED BY
S. ROSEN

A Feature-Length
Marvel Masterpiece of
Compelling Excellence!!

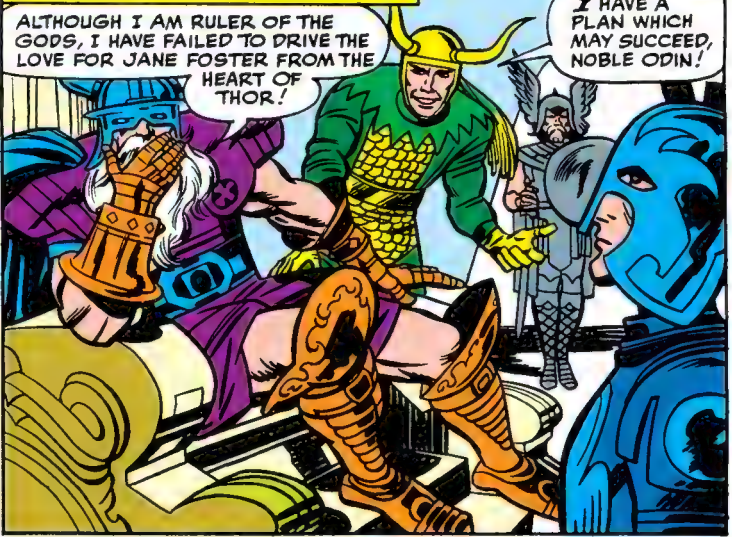




BUT, EVEN AS THE UNHAPPY MAN DREAMS HIS TROUBLED DREAM, **ANOTHER** IS ALSO REMEMBERING BYGONE EVENTS! LET US TURN TO A FAR-OFF KINGDOM, HIDDEN IN THE VASTNESS OF INFINITY! THE LEGENDARY KINGDOM OF... **ASGARD**, HOME OF THE GODS!!

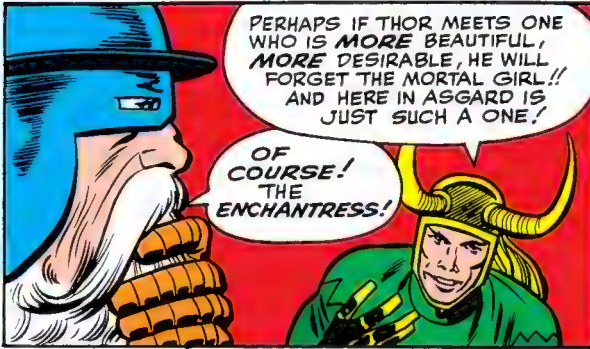


IT IS HERE THAT WE FIND NOBLE **ODIN**, LORD OF ASGARD, FATHER OF **THOR**, DEEP IN THOUGHT IN HIS THRONE ROOM, AS EVIL **LOKI**, HIS STEP-SON, PLANS NEW DEVILTRY...



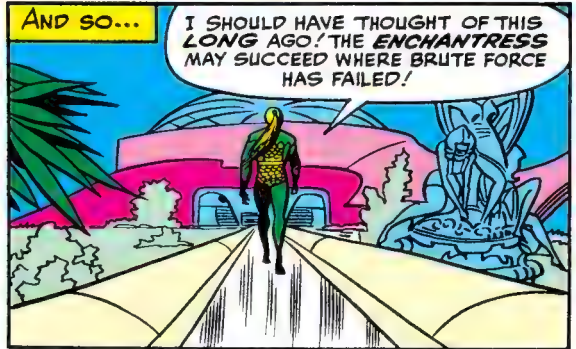
ALTHOUGH I AM RULER OF THE GODS, I HAVE FAILED TO DRIVE THE LOVE FOR JANE FOSTER FROM THE HEART OF **THOR**!

I HAVE A PLAN WHICH MAY SUCCEED, NOBLE **ODIN**!



PERHAPS IF **THOR** MEETS ONE WHO IS **MORE** BEAUTIFUL, **MORE** DESIRABLE, HE WILL FORGET THE MORTAL GIRL!! AND HERE IN ASGARD IS JUST SUCH A ONE!

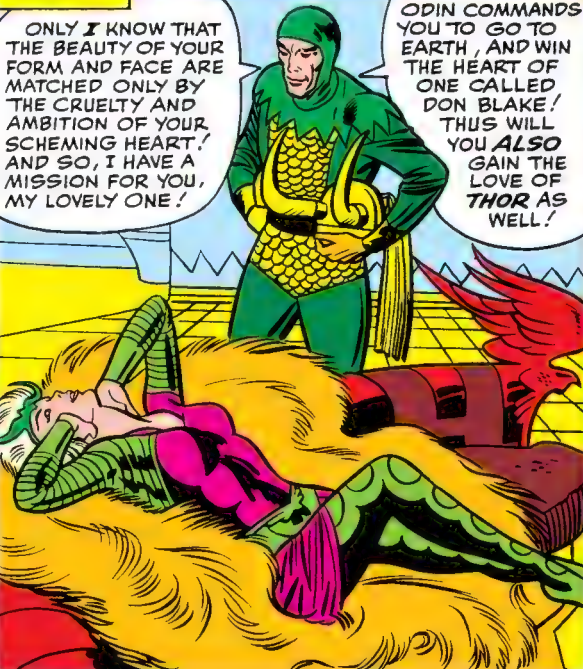
OF COURSE! THE **ENCHANTRESS**!



AND SO...

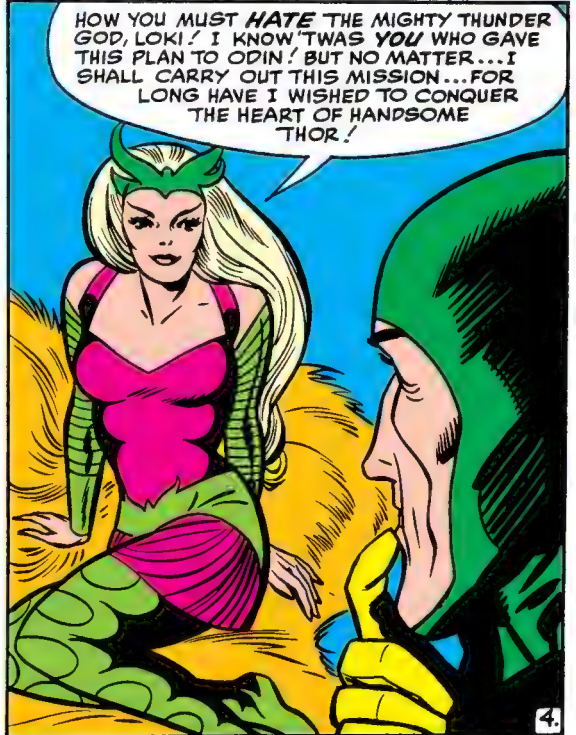
I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THIS LONG AGO! THE **ENCHANTRESS** MAY SUCCEED WHERE BRUTE FORCE HAS FAILED!

MINUTES LATER, **LOKI** SPEAKS TO ONE WHOSE BEAUTY IS DEEMED TO BE MORE THAN ANY MORTAL MAN CAN RESIST!

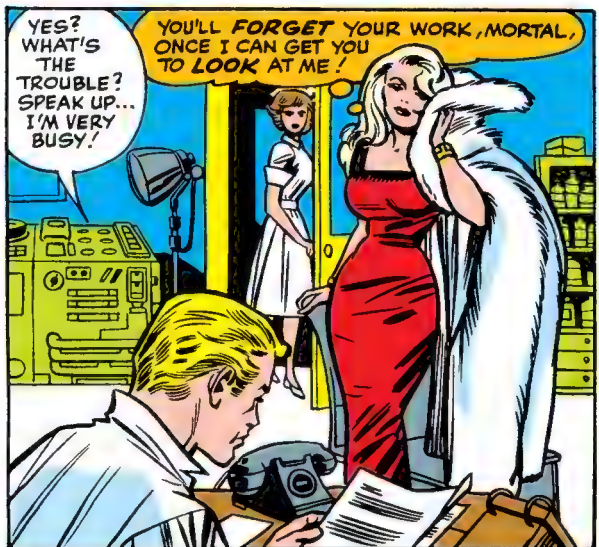
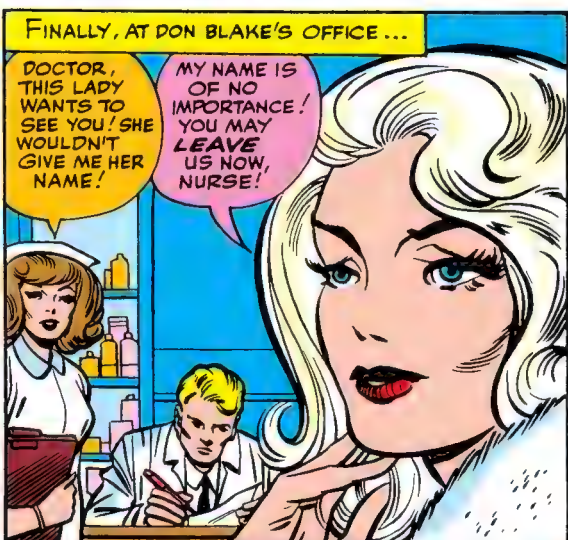
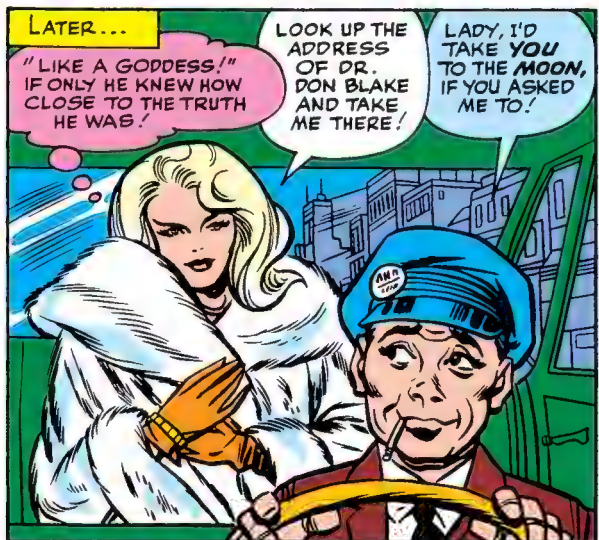
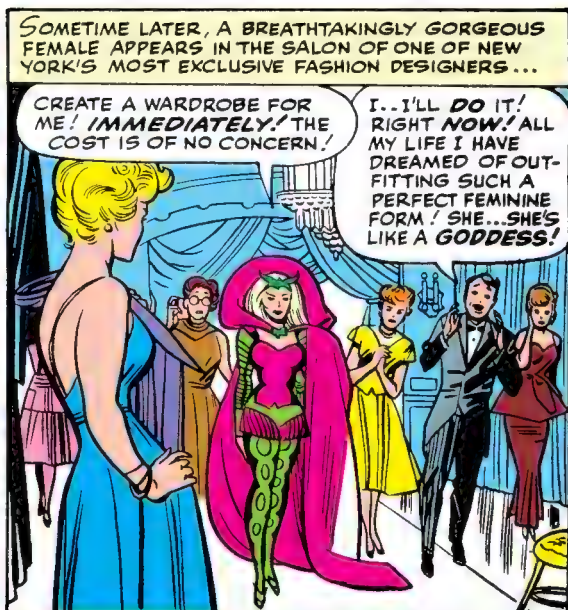
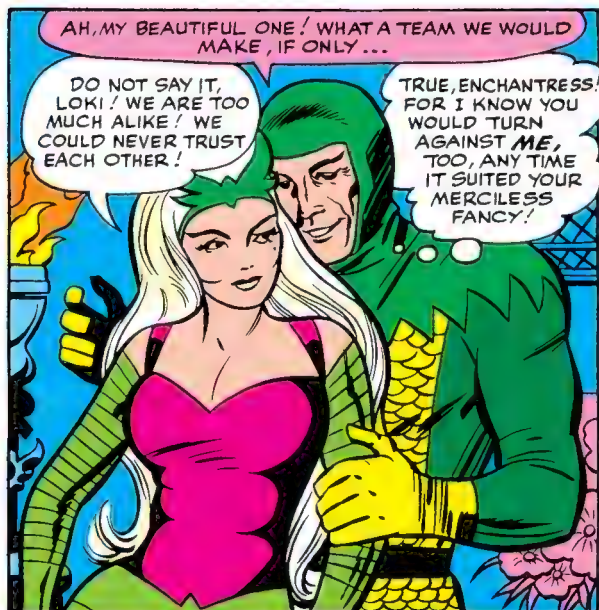


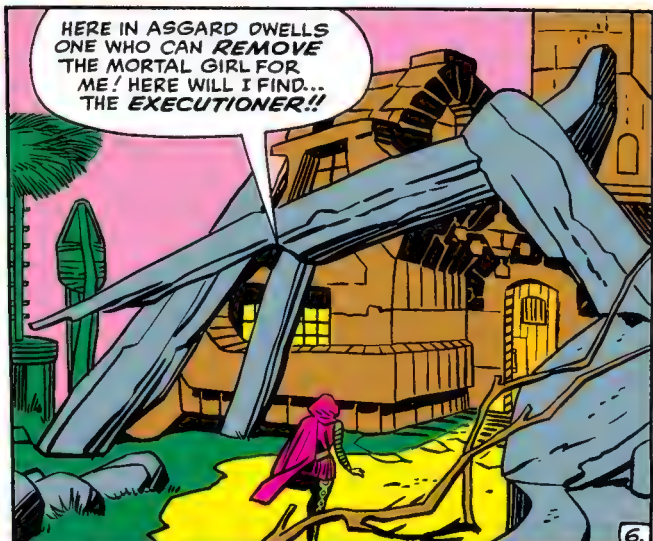
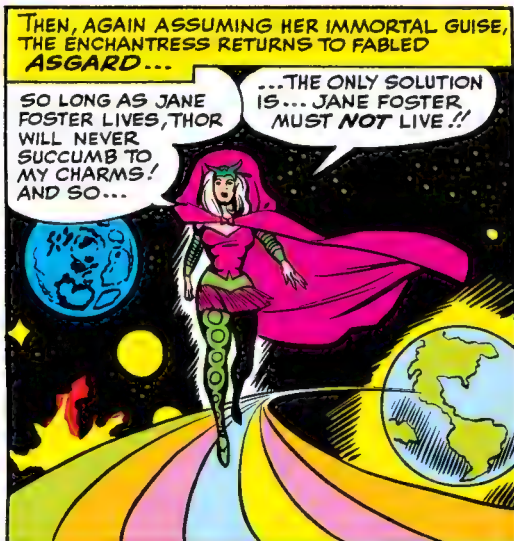
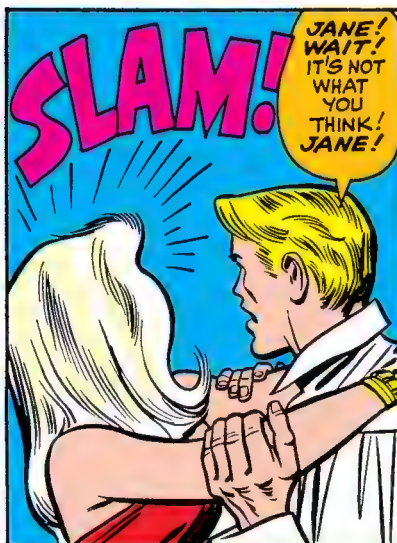
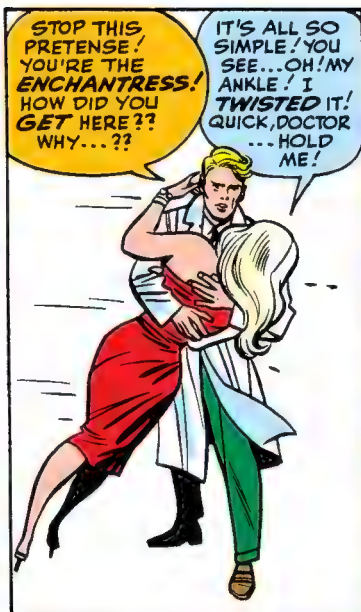
ONLY I KNOW THAT THE BEAUTY OF YOUR FORM AND FACE ARE MATCHED ONLY BY THE CRUELTY AND AMBITION OF YOUR SCHEMING HEART! AND SO, I HAVE A MISSION FOR YOU, MY LOVELY ONE!

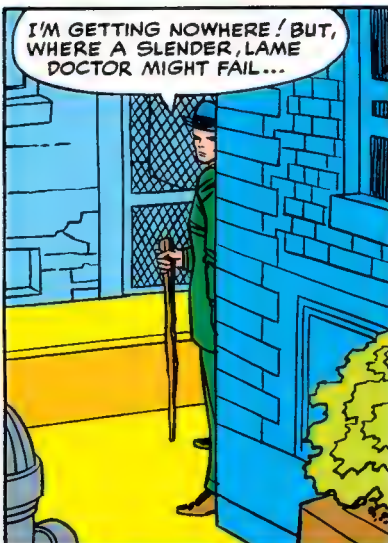
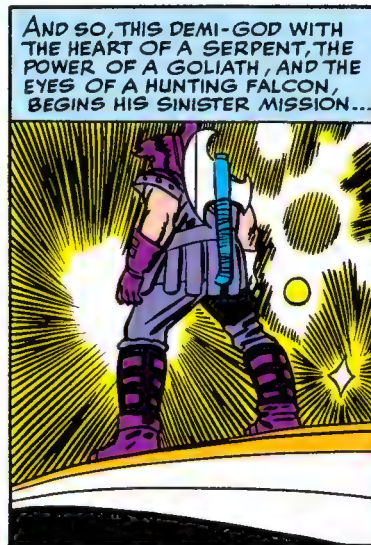
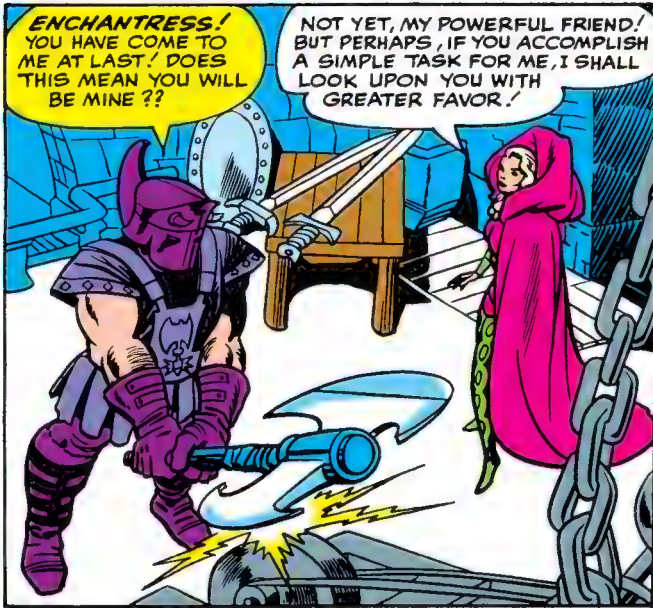
ODIN COMMANDS YOU TO GO TO EARTH, AND WIN THE HEART OF ONE CALLED **DON BLAKE**! THUS WILL YOU **ALSO** GAIN THE LOVE OF **THOR** AS WELL!



HOW YOU MUST **HATE** THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD, **LOKI**! I KNOW 'T WAS **YOU** WHO GAVE THIS PLAN TO **ODIN**! BUT NO MATTER... I SHALL CARRY OUT THIS MISSION... FOR LONG HAVE I WISHED TO CONQUER THE HEART OF HANDSOME **THOR**!







WITHIN SECONDS, THE FAST-MOVING THUNDER GOD BURSTS INTO THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER ...



COMMISSIONER! I'D LIKE YOU TO ISSUE AN ALL-POINTS ALARM!

HOLD IT, THOR!

I JUST RECEIVED A CALL! IT MAY BE RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY! THERE'S AN EIGHT-FOOT TALL CHARACTER IN STRANGE ARMOR, CARRYING A HUGE BATTLE-AX, CAUSING PANIC AMONG THE PEOPLE!



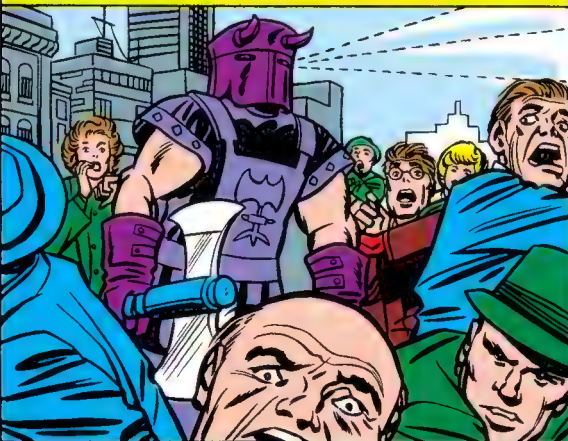
EIGHT FEET TALL? ARMOR? CARRYING A BATTLE-AX? IT SOUNDS LIKE... THE AWESOME EXECUTIONER!



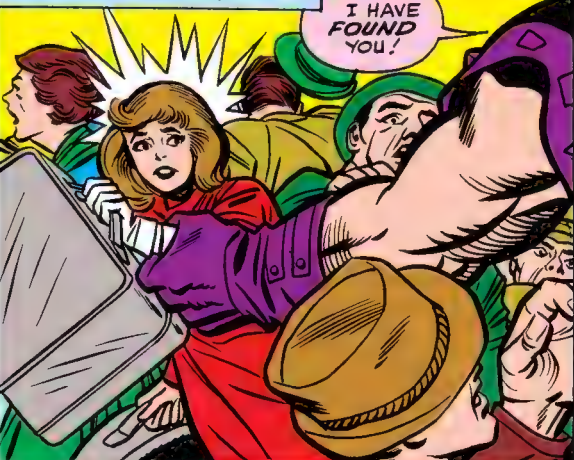
ORDER YOUR MEN TO STAND BACK! HAVE THE CROWDS DISPERSED! IF IT IS THE ONE I SUSPECT, IT IS BETTER THAT I DEAL WITH HIM ALONE!

VERY WELL, THOR! I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTEEN MINUTES BEFORE WE MOVE IN!

MEANWHILE, THE EXECUTIONER STALKS THE CITY, OBVIOUS TO THE SURGING CROWDS AROUND HIM, USING HIS SUPER-HUMAN FALCON HUNTING VISION TO SINGLE OUT ONE FACE AMONG MANY MILLIONS ...



AND THEN, THE INEVITABLE OCCURS! THE FACE OF JANE FOSTER IS OBSERVED, AS A GARGANTUAN ARM REACHES OUT, AND ...



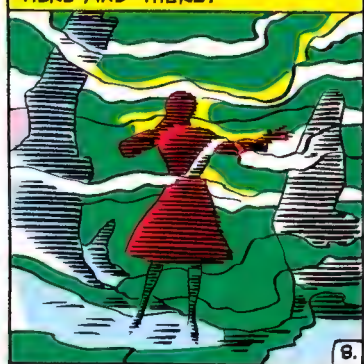
LIFE AND DEATH ARE ALMOST MEANINGLESS TO THOSE WHO DWELL IN ASGARD! TO *THEM*, THERE ARE *MANY* WAYS TO EXECUTE A VICTIM! IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO TAKE THEIR LIFE FROM THEM ...

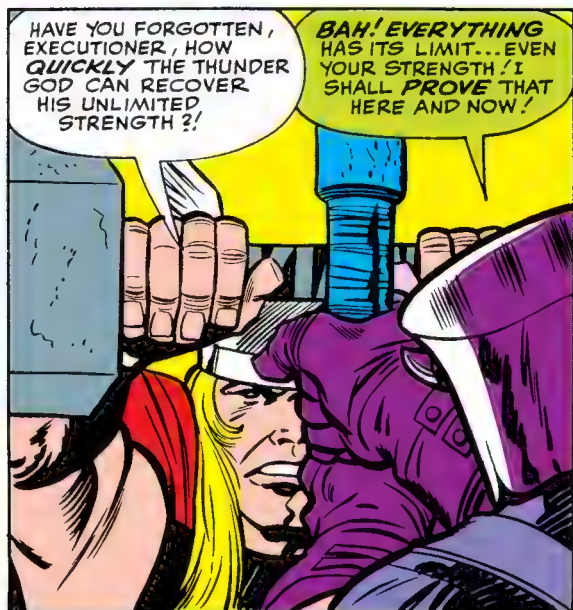
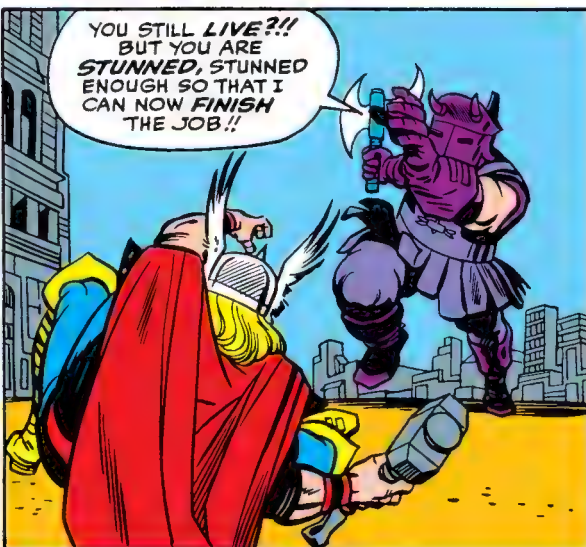
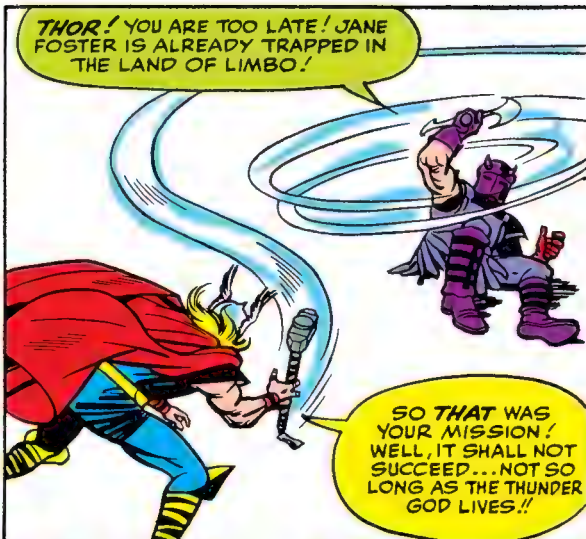
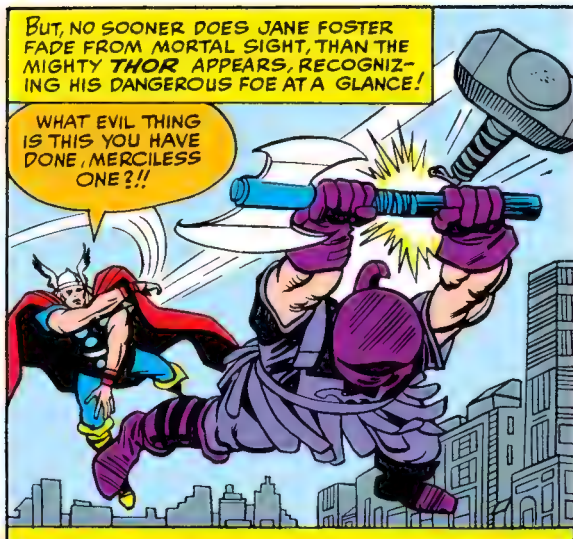


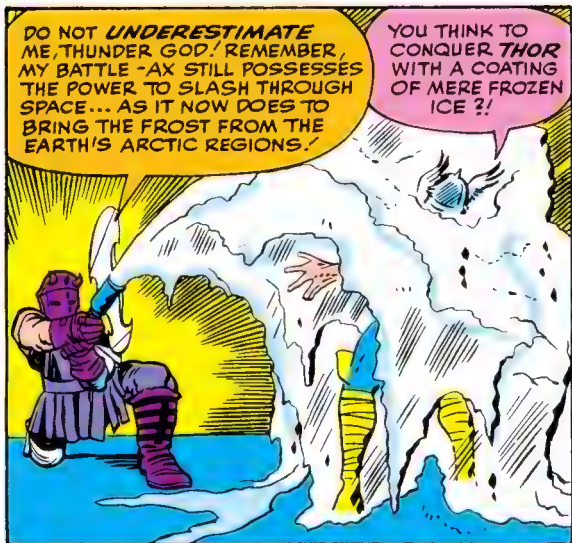
USING HIS AX TO CUT THROUGH TIME AND SPACE, RATHER THAN FRAIL HUMAN FLESH, THE EXECUTIONER WHIRLS IT ABOUT HIM AT FANTASTIC SPEED, CREATING A BLINDING, SPINNING VORTEX ...



... INTO WHICH JANE FOSTER IS HURLED ... UNTIL THE VORTEX CEASES! AND THEN, AS THE SHADOWS LIFT, SHE FINDS HERSELF IN A LAND OF MIST ... FAR REMOVED FROM EARTH OR ASGARD ... TRAPPED IN *LIMBO*, THE HALF-WORLD BETWEEN HERE AND THERE!

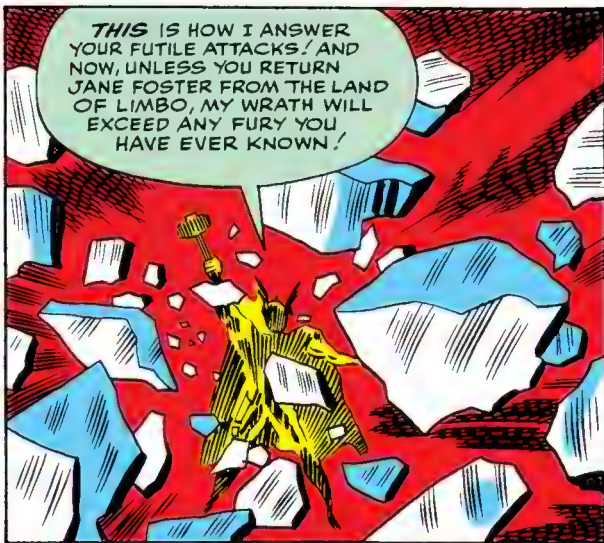






DO NOT **UNDERESTIMATE** ME, THUNDER GOD! REMEMBER, MY BATTLE-AX STILL POSSESSES THE POWER TO SLASH THROUGH SPACE... AS IT NOW DOES TO BRING THE FROST FROM THE EARTH'S ARCTIC REGIONS!

YOU THINK TO CONQUER **THOR** WITH A COATING OF MERE FROZEN ICE?!



THIS IS HOW I ANSWER YOUR FUTILE ATTACKS! AND NOW, UNLESS YOU RETURN JANE FOSTER FROM THE LAND OF LIMBO, MY WRATH WILL EXCEED ANY FURY YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN!



YOU HAVEN'T BEATEN ME **YET!** I CAN STILL CUT THROUGH SUB-SPACE ITSELF, PUTTING EVEN YOU IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE FROM WHICH YOU SHALL NEVER ESCAPE!



NOT WHILE MY **URU HAMMER** CAN BLAST YOUR BATTLE-AX FROM YOUR HAND BEFORE ANOTHER SPLIT-SECOND CAN FLY BY!



ON YOUR KNEES, EXECUTIONER! **DOWN**, I SAY! THE BATTLE IS OVER AND WON! THE TIME FOR THE **RECKONING** IS HERE!



STAY YOUR HAND, MIGHTY **THOR**! SLAYING **ME** WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING! BUT IF YOU WOULD HAVE ME RETURN THE GIRL, I WILL MAKE YOU AN OFFER!

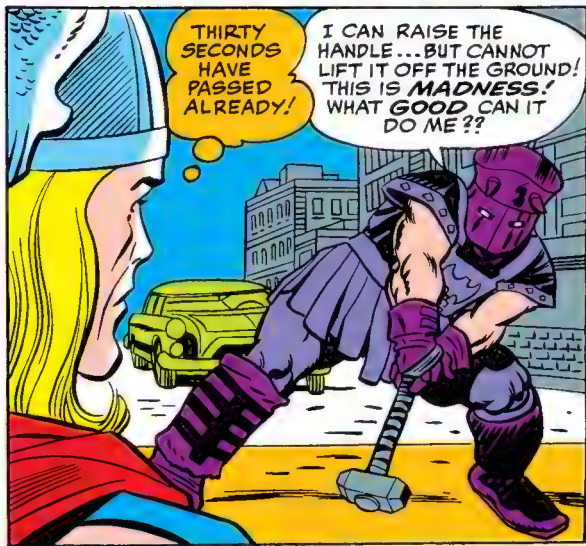
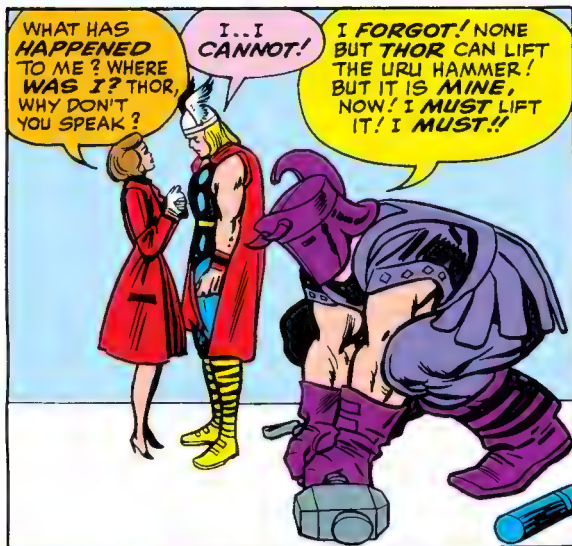
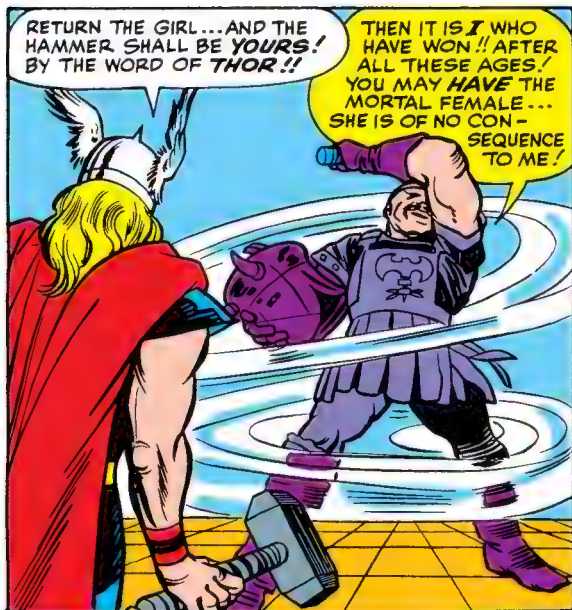
SPEAK THEN, WICKED ONE!

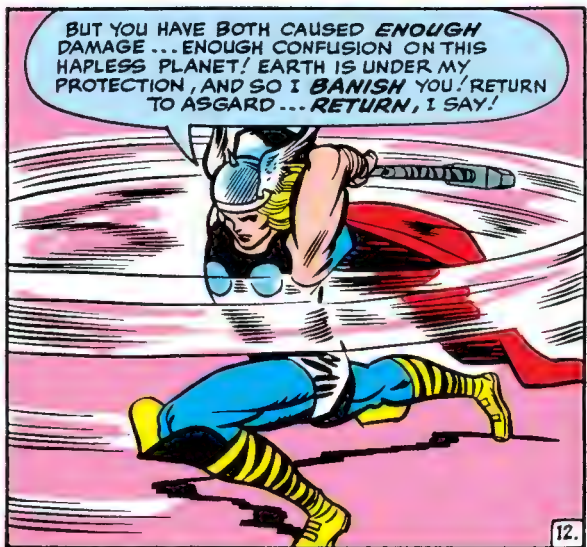
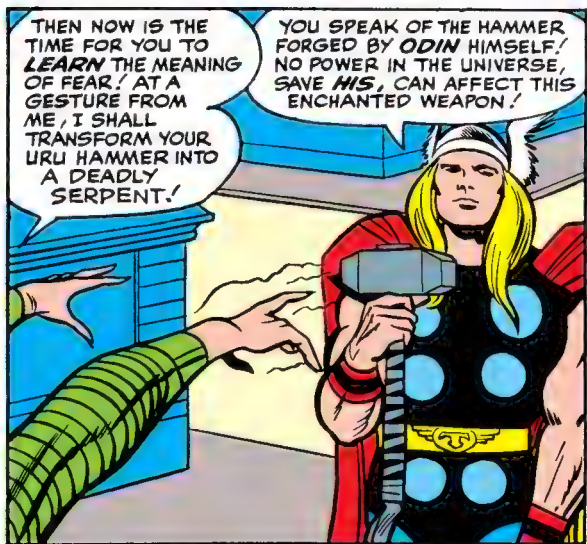
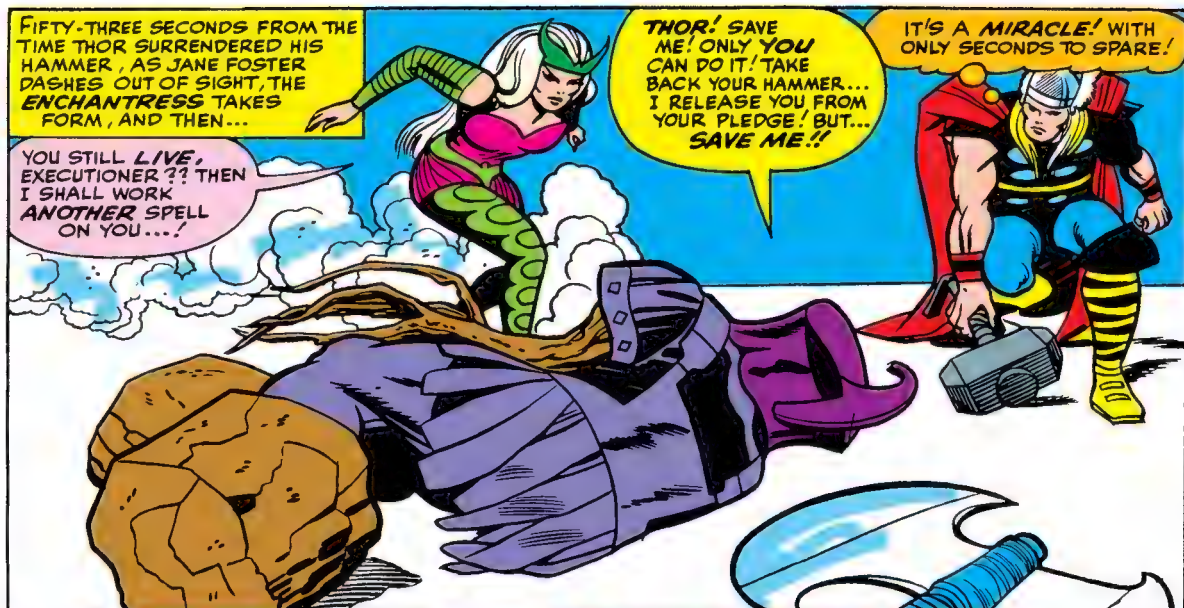


FOR AGES I HAVE LONGED FOR YOUR **HAMMER**! I DESIRE IT MORE THAN ANYTHING ON EARTH OR ASGARD! IF YOU PLEDGE IT TO **ME**, I SHALL RETURN THE GIRL! IF **NOT**, YOU LOSE HER... FOREVER!!

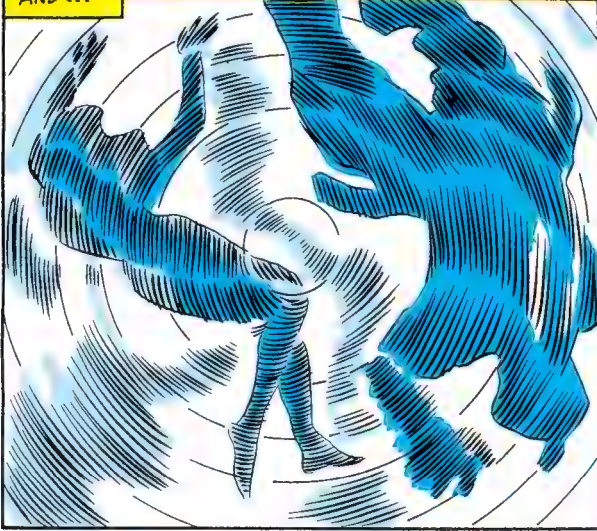


WITHOUT MY **HAMMER**, I SHALL BECOME DON BLAKE AGAIN, TO REMAIN SO FOR ALL TIME! AND YET, IF **THOR** MUST BE SACRIFICED SO THAT JANE FOSTER MAY LIVE, I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!





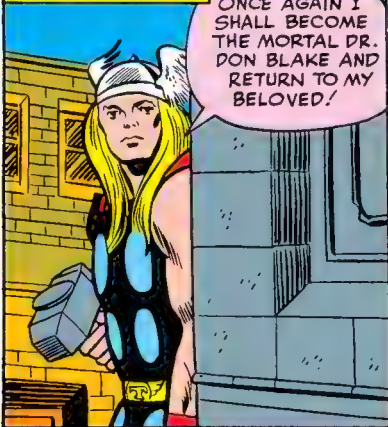
THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE, BOTH THE ENCHANTRESS AND THE EXECUTIONER ARE CAUGHT UP IN THE VORTEX CAUSED BY THOR'S WHIRLING HAMMER, AND...



...THE TWO DEMI-GODS ARE HURLED BACK TO ASGARD WHERE THEY RETURN IN DEFEAT, THEIR MISSION A TOTAL FAILURE!



AS FOR THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD HIMSELF, HE SOON FINDS A SECLUDED CORNER, WHERE HE MAKES SURE HE IS SAFE FROM PRYING EYES...



ONCE AGAIN I SHALL BECOME THE MORTAL DR. DON BLAKE AND RETURN TO MY BELOVED!

HAILING A PASSING TAXI, DON BLAKE OVERTAKES JANE FOSTER BEFORE SHE CAN REACH THEIR OFFICE BUILDING! AND SO...

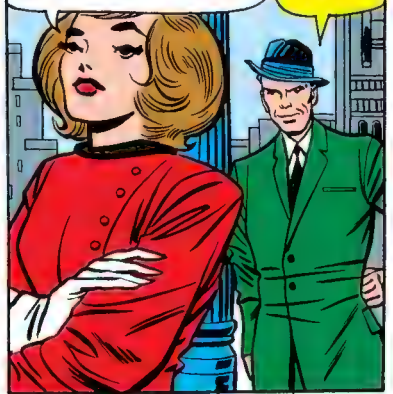
WELL, IF IT ISN'T DR. BLAKE! HOW IS YOUR NEW BLONDE GIRL-FRIEND, DOCTOR?

JANE, SHE WAS NOTHING TO ME! LET ME EXPLAIN..



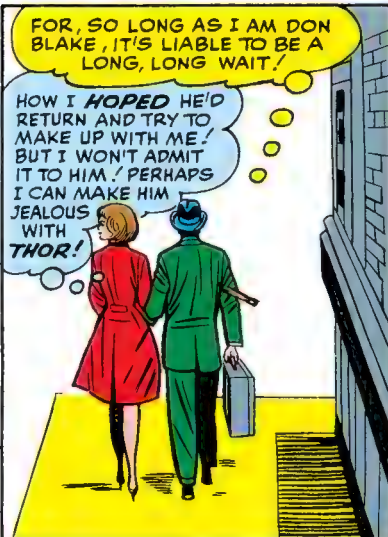
NO NEED TO EXPLAIN! YOU'RE NOT MARRIED TO ME! YOU'RE FREE TO KISS ANY GLAMOR GIRL YOU WANT TO! AS FOR ME, I HAPPEN TO BE WAITING FOR THOR!

PERHAPS YOU WON'T MIND IF I WAIT WITH YOU, JANE...?



FOR, SO LONG AS I AM DON BLAKE, IT'S LIABE TO BE A LONG, LONG WAIT!

HOW I HOPED HE'D RETURN AND TRY TO MAKE UP WITH ME! BUT I WON'T ADMIT IT TO HIM! PERHAPS I CAN MAKE HIM JEALOUS WITH THOR!



MEANWHILE, A PAIR OF THE WISEST, MOST ALL-SEEING EYES IN THE GALAXY WITNESS THE TABLEAU YOU HAVE JUST SEEN, AS AN INDESCRIBABLE RAGE FILLS THE HEART OF ODIN!



SO! STILL THEY ARE IN LOVE!!

BY ASGARD! MY SON MAY NOT LOVE A MORTAL! THOR MAY NOT DEFY HIS FATHER ODIN! THE TIME FOR WORDS IS PAST! NOW I MUST ACT!!



SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ODIN HIMSELF OPPOSES MIGHTY THOR! DON'T MISS ONE OF THE MOST SENSATIONAL FANTASY DRAMAS OF ALL TIME! OUR NEXT GREAT ISSUE IS A MUST!

THE END

Tales of
ASGARD
HOME
OF THE
MIGHTY NORSE
GODS!

"THOR'S MISSION to MIRMIR!"

THIS IS THE TALE OF THOR'S ODYSSEY TO MIRMIR... ONE OF THE STRANGEST MISSIONS EVER UNDERTAKEN BY MORTAL OR GODLING! OUR SAGA BEGINS WITH THOR'S ARRIVAL IN THE HEART OF THE ASGARD MOUNTAINS, WHERE DWELL THE SUBJECTS OF SINDRI, KING OF THE DWARFS...

TAKE
ME TO
SINDRI,
YOUR
KING!

HERE, IN THE LAND OF
THE DWARFS, ARE FORGED
ALL THE ENCHANTED
WEAPONS OF ASGARD!

FOLLOW
US, MIGHTY
THOR! KING
SINDRI
AWAITS
YOU!

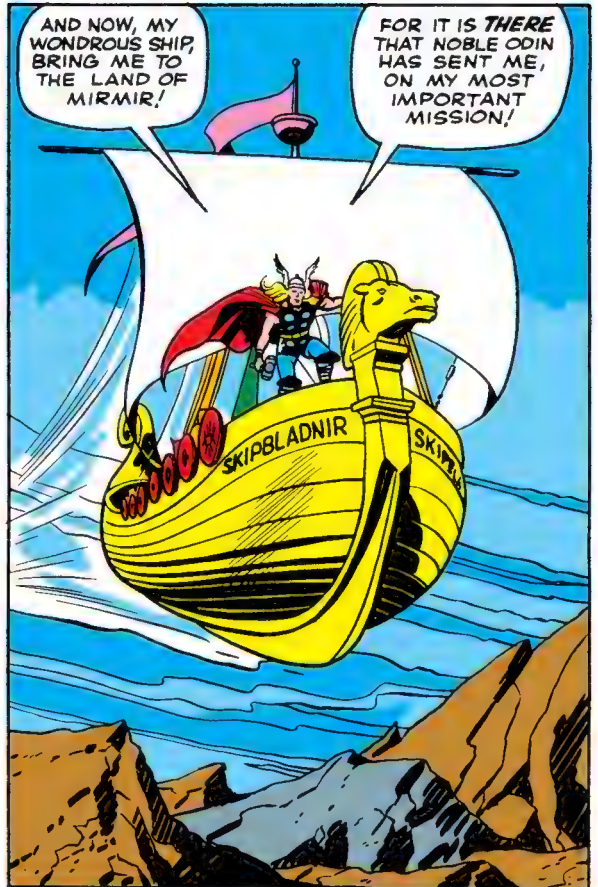
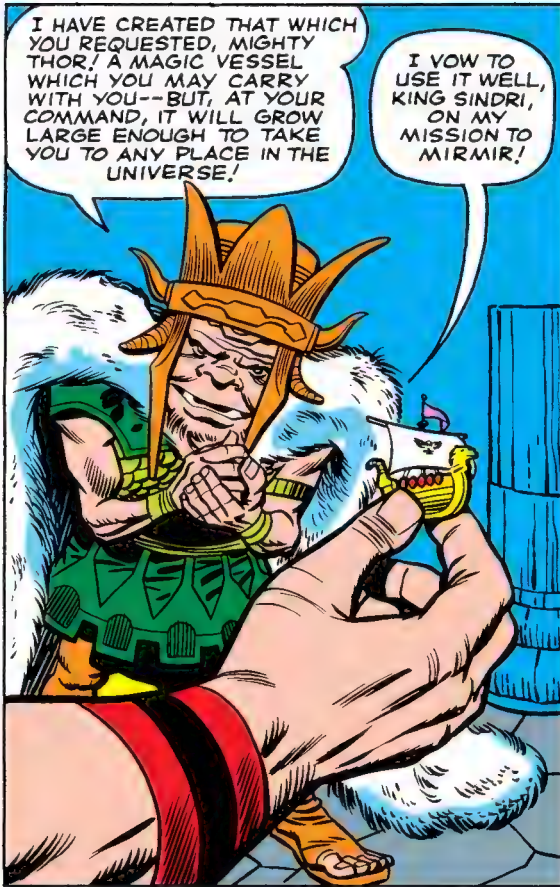
MASTERFULLY
WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE

MAGNIFICENTLY
ILLUSTRATED
BY:

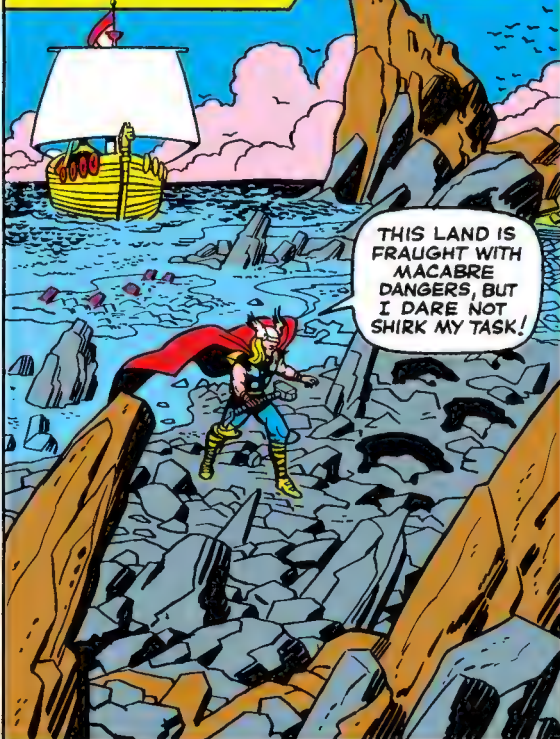
JACK KIRBY

MAJESTICALLY
INKED BY:
CHIC STONE

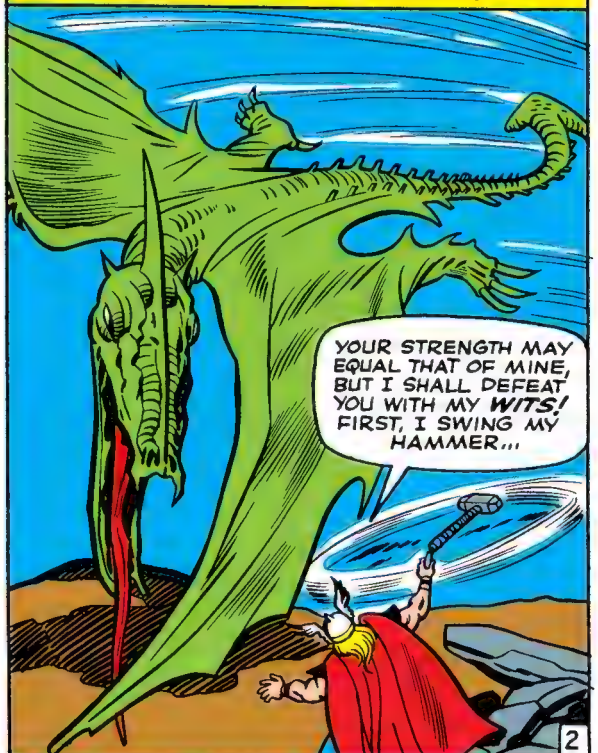
MERITORIOUSLY
LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK



REACHING THE DANGEROUS DARK SEA WHICH SURROUNDS THE LAND OF MIRMIR, THE ENCHANTED VESSEL STOPS! FOR ONLY BY TRAVELING ON FOOT... MAY ONE ENTER THE MYSTERIOUS REALM...



SUDDENLY, THOR HEARS THE BEATING OF GIGANTIC WINGS, AS *SKORD*, THE FLYING DRAGON, SWOOPS DOWN TO ATTACK!



BUT THOR DOES **NOT** STRIKE HIS AWESOME WINGED FOE WITH HIS MIGHTY MALLET! INSTEAD, WITH A SKILL WHICH ONLY A GODLING CAN MUSTER, HE SMASHES A BOULDER BELOW HIM, CAUSING ONE HUGE CHUNK TO FLY INTO THE MOUTH OF SKORD!



THERE! BY THE TIME YOU HAVE DISLODGED THAT MAMMOTH ROCK, I SHALL BE SAFELY ON MY WAY!

NOW TO CONTINUE MY JOURNEY! ODIN WARNED ME IT WOULD BE FRAUGHT WITH PERIL, BUT I **MUST** SUCCEED! **WAIT--** I HEAR A VOICE--A THUNDEROUS, INHUMAN BELLOW--!

YOU SHALL GO NO FURTHER, PUNY GODLING --UNTIL YOU HAVE MET THE CHALLENGE OF GULLIN, MIGHTIEST OF THE BOAR GODS!



AND THOUGH YOU HAVE A HAMMER, I HAVE ONE, TOO! AND **MINE** IS FAR BIGGER!



AND THERE, ON THE OUTER FRINGES OF THE KINGDOM OF MIRMIR, ONE OF THE MOST TITANIC BATTLES OF ALL TIME TAKES PLACE, AS THE MIGHTY THOR AND THE GARGANTUAN GULLIN POUND AT EACH OTHER WITH PLANET-SHATTERING BLOWS-- NEITHER A FOE MOVING BACK OR YIELDING A SINGLE INCH!

YOU HAVE COURAGE, THOR-- BUT IT IS USELESS AGAINST MY LARGER, MORE DEADLY HAMMER!

LARGER YOURS MAY BE, GULLIN-- BUT ONLY **MY** HAMMER WAS FORGED BY ODIN HIMSELF! **NOTHING** CAN WITHSTAND IT FOR LONG!



AND THE NEXT TREMENDOUS IMPACT DEMONSTRATES THE **TRUTH** OF MIGHTY THOR'S WORDS, AS GULLIN'S WEAPON IS SHATTERED TO BITS BEFORE HIS VERY EYES!

NOW YOU ARE **DEFENSELESS**, GULLIN! I ORDER YOU TO FLEE BEFORE MY HAMMER STRIKES AGAIN!



HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ALLOW ME FREE PASSAGE! AND NOW, MY GOAL IS ALMOST AT HAND...

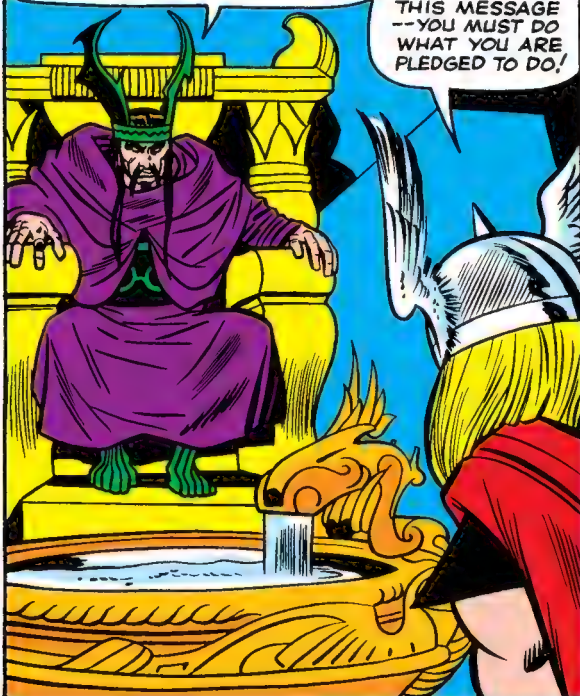
I MUST FOLLOW THIS MAIN STREAM WHICH WILL LEAD ME DIRECTLY TO KING MIRMIR HIMSELF!!



AND FINALLY, AT THE HEAD OF THE STREAM, BEHIND THE MYSTIC FOUNTAIN WHICH FEEDS ALL THE WORLD'S OCEANS, THOR FINDS THE ONE HE SEEKS!

THOR! IT IS YOU! DOES THAT MEAN MY MOMENT IS AT HAND?

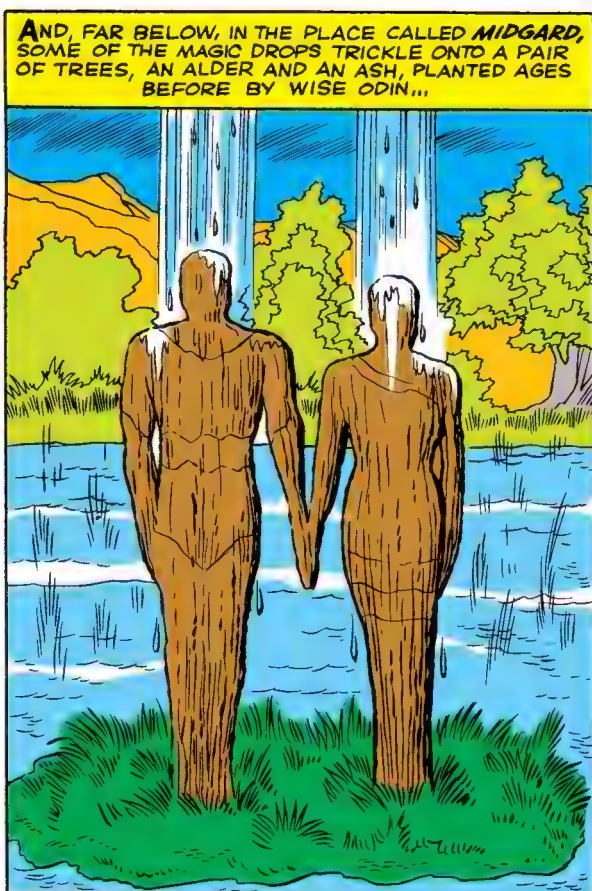
YES! NOBLE ODIN HAS SENT YOU THIS MESSAGE -- YOU MUST DO WHAT YOU ARE PLEDGED TO DO!



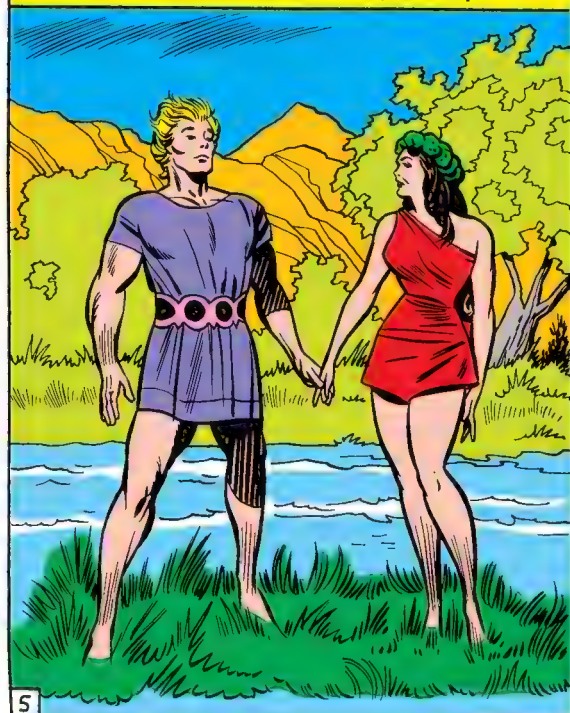
ODIN HAS SENT THIS BRANCH, FROM YGGDRASIL, THE TREE OF LIFE! YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE!

SO BE IT! MIRMIR WILL BE TRUE TO HIS SACRED TRUST! GIVE ME THE MAGIC BRANCH!

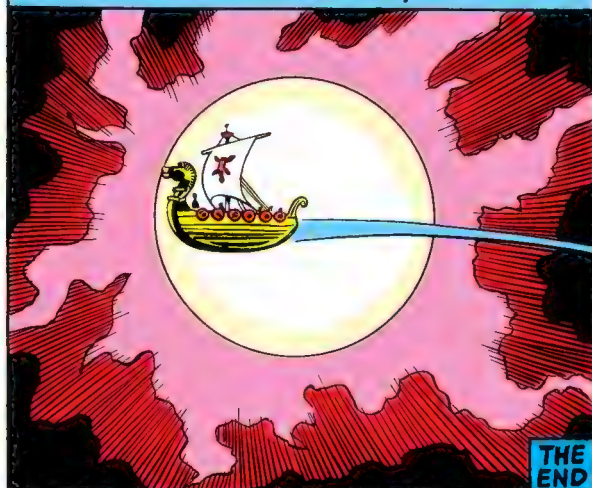




...AND LO, THE TREES SLOWLY CHANGE FORM UNTIL... WHERE STOOD AN ALDER AND AN ASH, WE NOW SEE THE PROUD FIGURES OF **ASKE** AND **EMBLA**, DESTINED TO START A NEW RACE, IN THE IMAGE OF THE IMMORTALS OF ASGARD!



THUS, HIS MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, THE MIGHTY THOR RETURNS TO HIS HOME IN ASGARD, TO AWAIT THE NEWER AND MORE STARTLING TASKS WHICH ODIN HAS IN STORE!



THE END

EDITOR'S NOTE: FREELY TRANSLATED, THE TALE YOU HAVE JUST READ IS PART OF THE NORSE LEGENDS WHICH DEAL WITH THE BIRTH OF MANKIND AND THE DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF TIME!

NEXT ISSUE: THE START OF A NEW ASGARD SERIES! BIOGRAPHIES IN DEPTH OF THE DWELLERS OF ASGARD! OUR FIRST SUBJECT WILL BE **HEIMDALL**, GUARDIAN OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE, AS ONLY STAN AND JACK CAN PRESENT HIM TO YOU!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP 12¢

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY WITH



THE MIGHTY THOR

104
MAY

THE
MOST
DRAMATIC
HERO
OF
ALL
TIME!

THE PRIDE
OF THE
MARVEL
GROUP!

NOTHING YOU HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE CAN
EQUAL THE BREATH-TAKING SPECTACLE OF

"GIANTS WALK THE EARTH!"



THE MIGHTY THOR

"GIANTS WALK THE EARTH!"

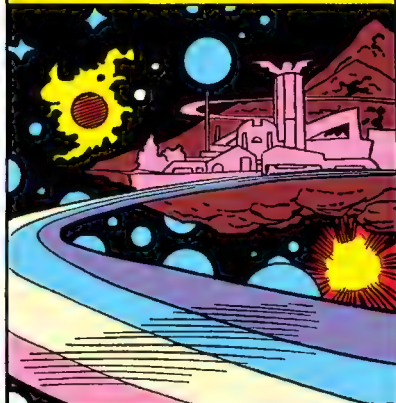
THIS IS A TALE SO POWERFUL
IN CONCEPT, SO DRAMATIC IN
SCOPE, THAT ONLY THE INSPIRED
TALENT OF
STAN LEE
COULD HAVE WRITTEN IT...
ONLY THE GIFTED HAND OF
JACK KIRBY
COULD HAVE ILLUSTRATED IT!!

INKED BY: CHIC STONE
LETTERED BY: S. ROSEN

POSSIBLY ONE OF THE
TEN ALL-TIME EPICS
YOU WILL NEVER EVER
FORGET !!



AT THE END OF THE SHIMMERING RAINBOW BRIDGE, AS FAR AS OUR IMAGINATIONS WILL REACH, LIES THE FABLED LAND OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE LEGENDARY NORSE GODS...



AND, SOMEWHERE IN THAT ENCHANTED REALM, TWO DEMI-GODS REPORT TO EVIL LOKI...

THE EXECUTIONER AND THE ENCHANTRESS! YOU BOTH FAILED TO DEFEAT THOR!



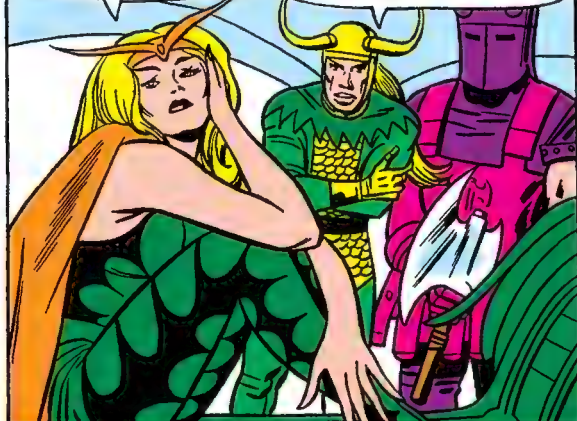
MY PLAN WAS PERFECT! AND YET YOU BUNGLED IT! THOR OUTSMARTED THE TWO OF YOU !! *



* JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY # 103 : EDITOR.

THE MIGHTY THOR IS MORE POWERFUL, AND FAR WISER THAN YOU SUSPECT, LOKI!

BAH! OUT OF MY SIGHT, BOTH OF YOU! I WILL LISTEN TO NO SUCH TALK! NONE ARE WISER, CRAFTIER THAN LOKI!



BUT ONE THERE IS WHO IS THE WISEST, THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL! BEHOLD ODIN, LORD OF ASGARD, RULER OF THE GODS!

ODIN HAS SUM-MONED ME! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO TRY A NEW SCHEME TO DEFEAT THE HATED THOR!

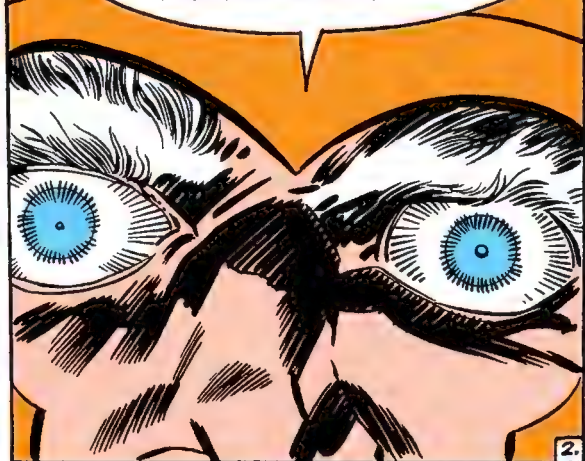


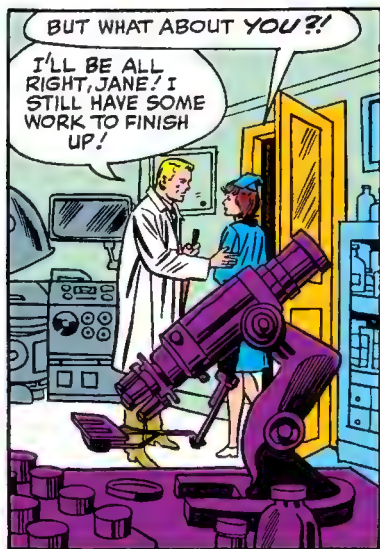
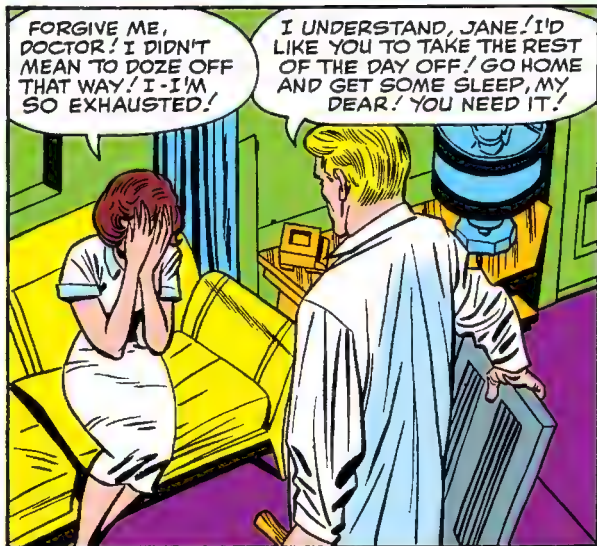
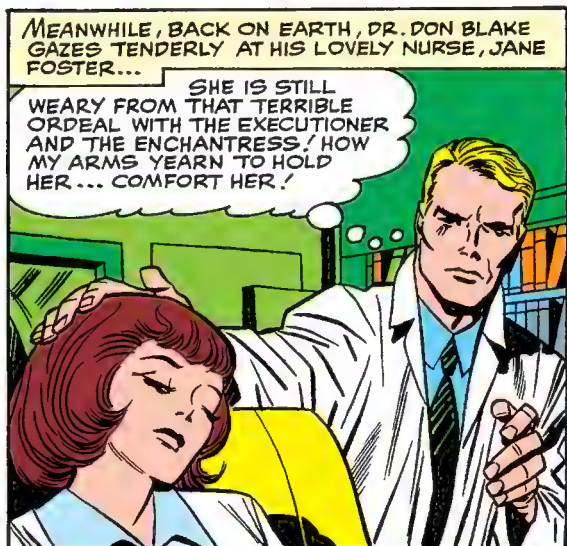
WITHOUT TURNING, THE REGAL ODIN SENSES LOKI'S PRESENCE, AND HE SPEAKS...

LOKI, I AM SORELY TROUBLED! MY FAVORED SON, THOR, THE ONE CLOSEST TO MY HEART, CONTINUES TO DEFY ME! THOUGH I HAVE FORBIDDEN IT, HE HAS GIVEN HIS HEART TO THE MORTAL JANE FOSTER!



THE ONLY EMOTION I CANNOT CONTROL IS... LOVE! I CANNOT DRIVE HIS LONGING FOR THE EARTH WOMAN FROM HIS HEART! YET, I CANNOT PERMIT HIM TO DEFY ME! YOU ARE CLEVER, LOKI! I ASK FOR YOUR ADVICE!

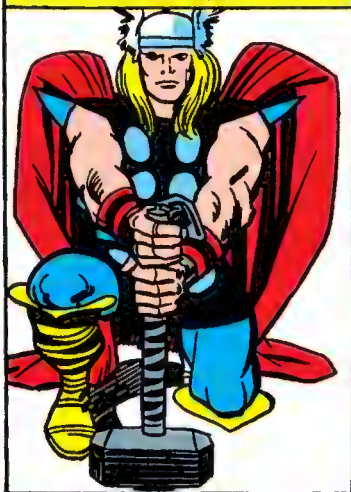




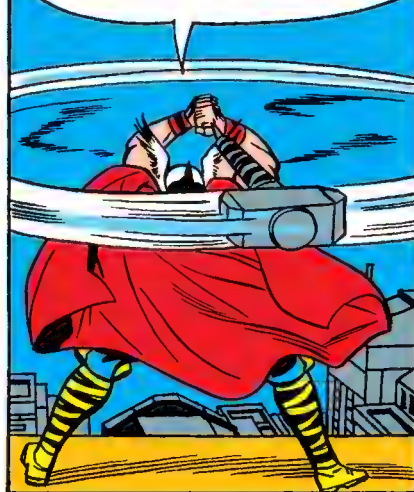
DRAMATICALLY, THE SLENDER, LAME DOCTOR GRASPS HIS ROUGH-HEWN WALKING STICK IN HIS TWO HANDS AND THEN, HE THUMPS IT ONCE UPON THE FLOOR...



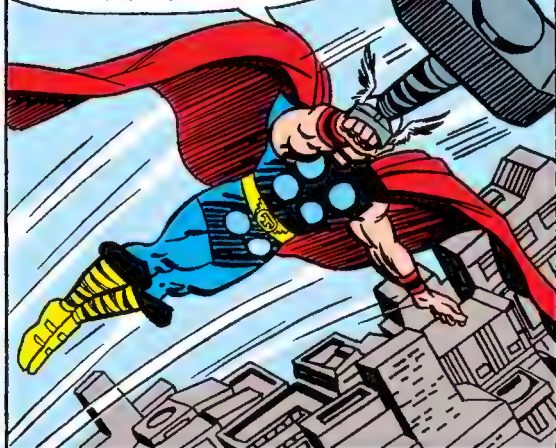
AND, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE MORTAL DR. BLAKE IS REPLACED BY THE MIGHTIEST OF IMMORTALS... **THOR**, GOD OF THUNDER!



WITH THE AID OF MY ENCHANTED HAMMER, I CAN SEARCH THE ENTIRE CITY IN LESS TIME THAN IT WOULD TAKE DON BLAKE TO CROSS A STREET!



I DARE NOT RELAX MY VIGILANCE FOR AN INSTANT... NOT WHILE **LOKI** STILL LIVES!



MEANTIME, IN A SHABBY SECTION OF TOWN...

WELL, WELL! A RICH-LOOKIN' OLD GEEZER!... AND HE'S ALL ALONE!



SAY, MAC, YOU GOT A MATCH?

MY NAME IS NOT MAC!

NOW AIN'T THAT INTERESTIN'?



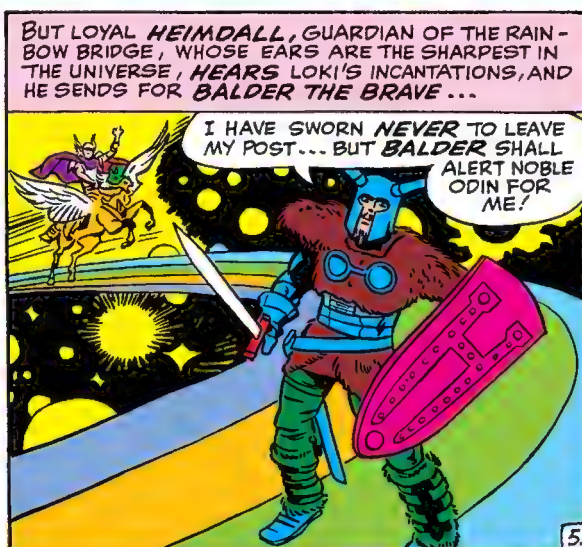
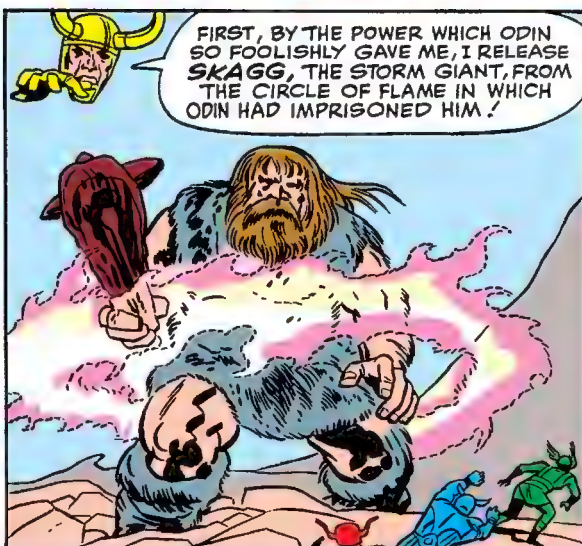
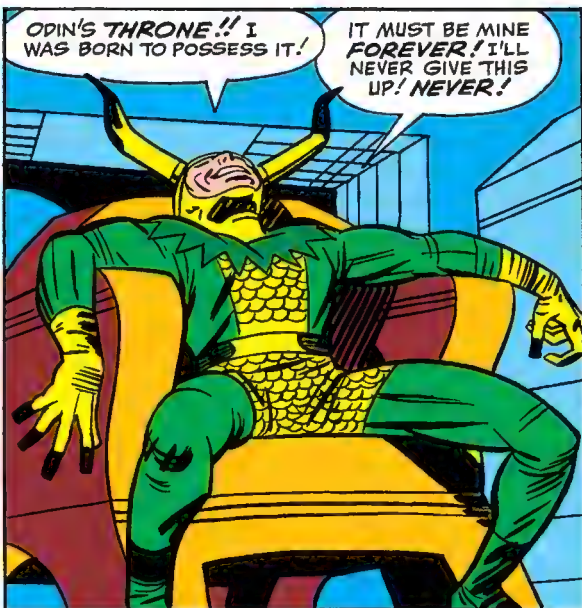
HEY!!
WHA...??!

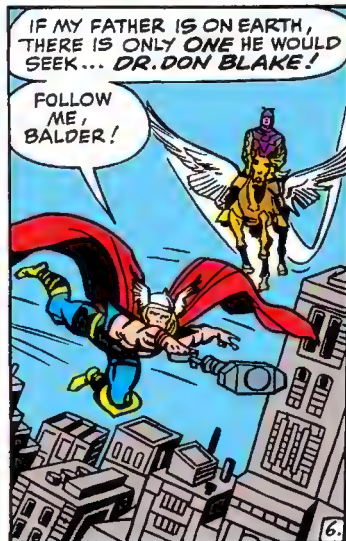
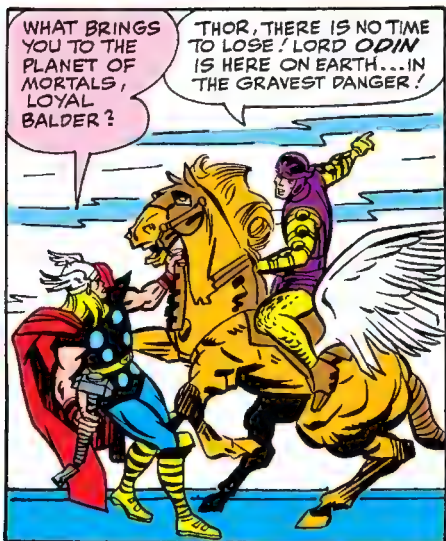
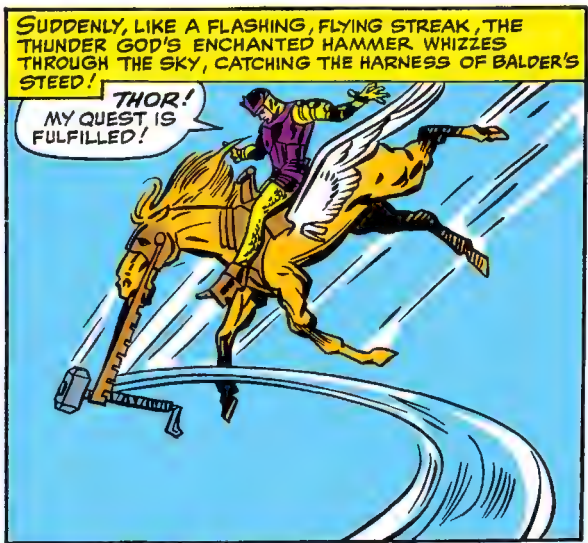
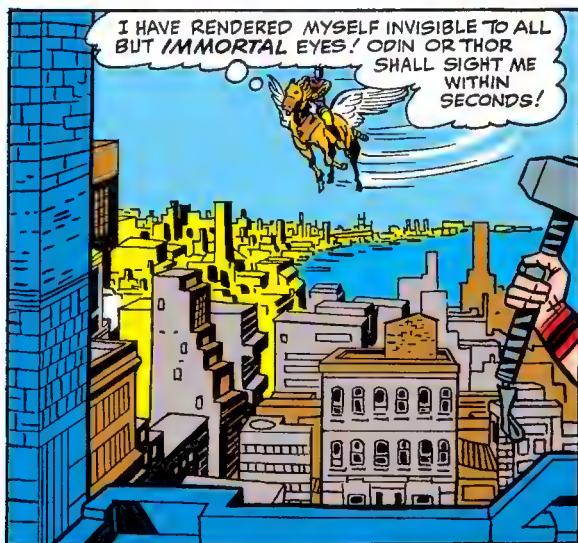


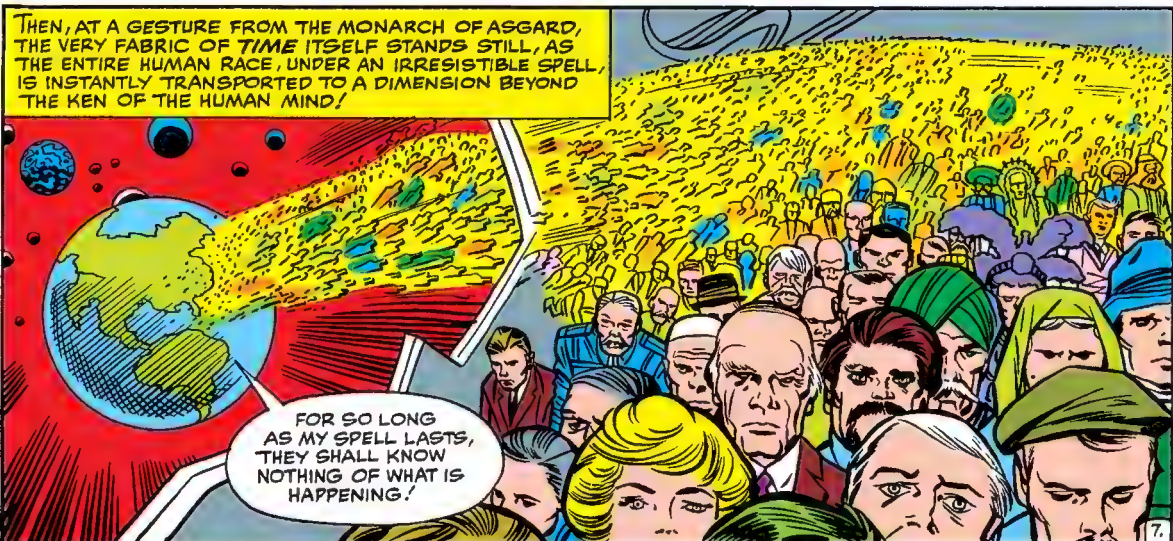
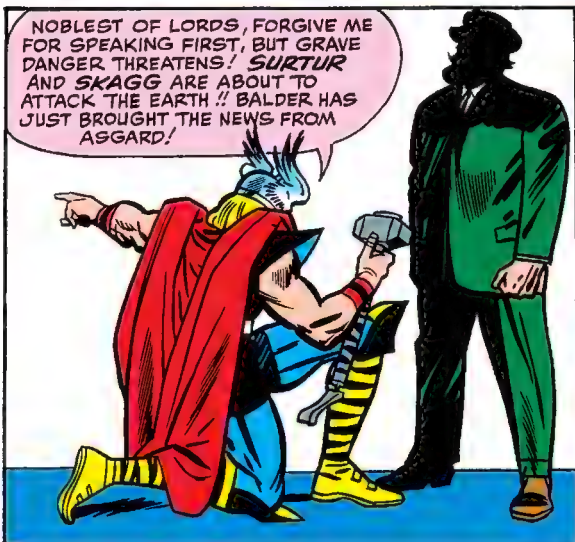
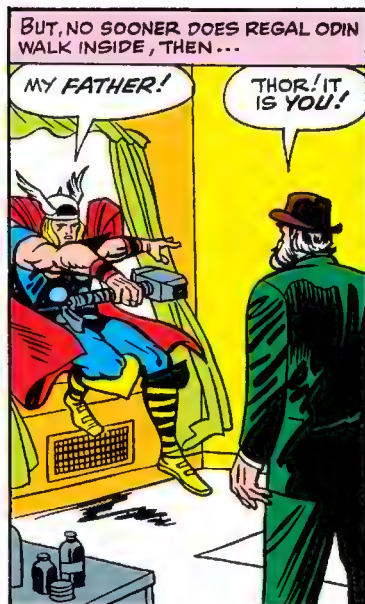
FAR MORE INTERESTING THAN YOU SUSPECT, MORTALS!

NONE MAY TOUCH THE PERSON OF... **ODIN**!!

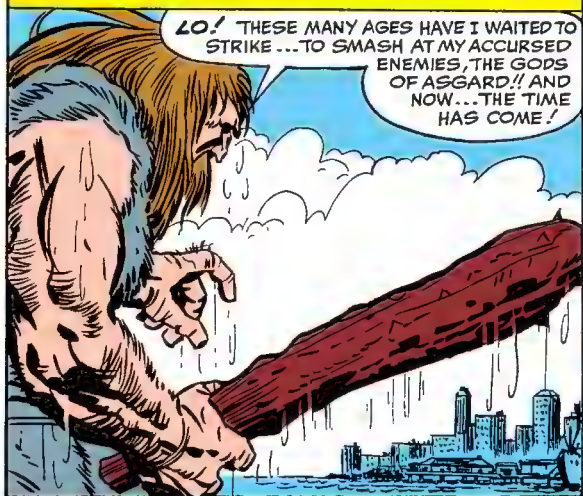




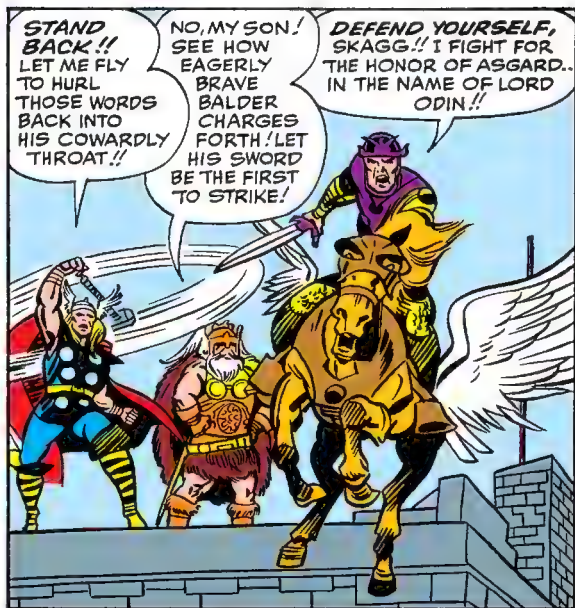




THEN, NOT FAR FROM WHERE THE LEGENDARY FIGURES STAND, A GIGANTIC FORM APPEARS, BRANDISHING HIS TEN-TON WAR CLUB... THE WAR CLUB WHICH CAN SPLIT A MOUNTAIN WITH BUT ONE STROKE!! THIS DOES SKAGG, THE STORM GIANT ISSUE HIS CHALLENGE!



LO! THESE MANY AGES HAVE I WAITED TO STRIKE... TO SMASH AT MY ACCURSED ENEMIES, THE GODS OF ASGARD!! AND NOW... THE TIME HAS COME!



STAND BACK!! LET ME FLY TO HURL THOSE WORDS BACK INTO HIS COWARDLY THROAT!!

NO, MY SON! SEE HOW EAGERLY BRAVE BALDER CHARGES FORTH! LET HIS SWORD BE THE FIRST TO STRIKE!

DEFEND YOURSELF, SKAGG!! I FIGHT FOR THE HONOR OF ASGARD... IN THE NAME OF LORD ODIN!!

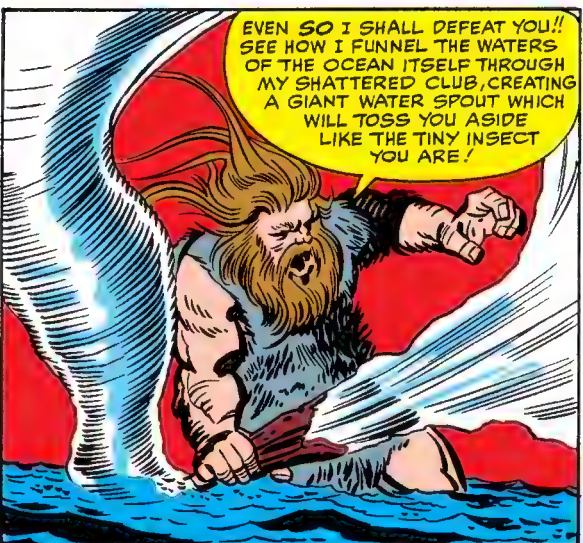


PUNY ONE!! I SHALL SMASH YOU AS I WOULD SMASH A FLEA!!

NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND THE FORCE OF MY BATTERING WAR CLUB!



YOU ARE WRONG, VILLAINOUS SKAGG! ONE THING CAN DESTROY YOUR LUMBERING WEAPON!! A BLADE OF ENCHANTED STEEL... FORGED BY THE ETERNAL FLAMES OF ASGARD!

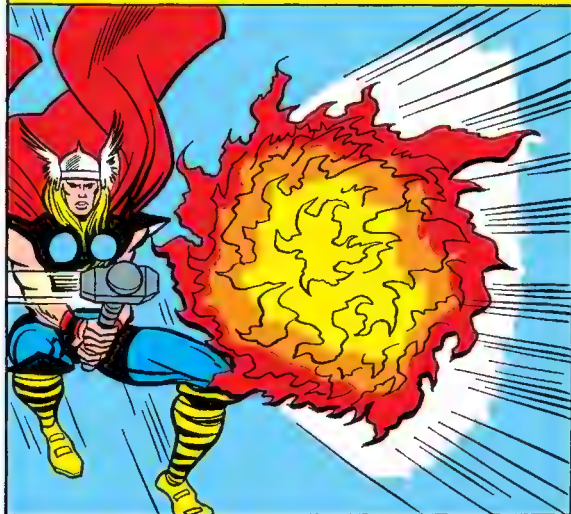


EVEN SO I SHALL DEFEAT YOU!! SEE HOW I FUNNEL THE WATERS OF THE OCEAN ITSELF THROUGH MY SHATTERED CLUB, CREATING A GIANT WATER SPOUT WHICH WILL TOSS YOU ASIDE LIKE THE TINY INSECT YOU ARE!



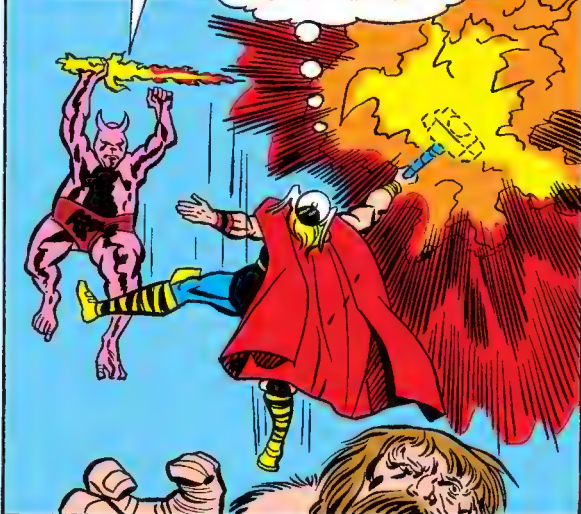
COURAGE, BALDER! YOU HAVE DONE YOUR SHARE!! BUT A STRONGER ARM THAN YOURS IS NEEDED TO FINISH THE JOB!! IT IS A TASK FOR THOR!!

BUT, BEFORE THE RAMPAGING THUNDER GOD CAN STRIKE WITH HIS IRRESISTIBLE HAMMER, A HUGE **FIREBOLT** HURTLING THROUGH THE SKY, FLASHING TOWARDS THE ENCHANTED MALLET...



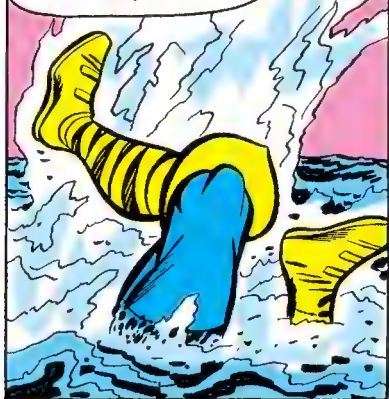
EVEN YOUR **HAMMER** IS NO MATCH FOR ME, HATED ONE!

SURTUR, THE FIRE DEMON!! HE HAS JOLTED MY HAMMER, UN-BALANCING ME!



THEN, BEFORE MIGHTY THOR CAN REGAIN HIS BALANCE....

I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH!! NO LONGER CAN I REMAIN MERELY A WITNESS...



...IT IS TIME FOR **ODIN** HIMSELF TO ENTER THE BATTLE!! FIRST, I COMMAND THE BED OF THE SEA TO SOFTEN BENEATH THE FEET OF SKAGG!!

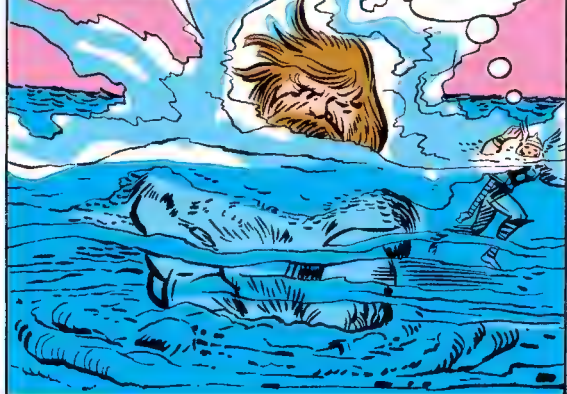


SURTUR! I'M SINKING!! HELP ME!! I MUST! I CANNOT BATTLE SUCH FOES ALONE!



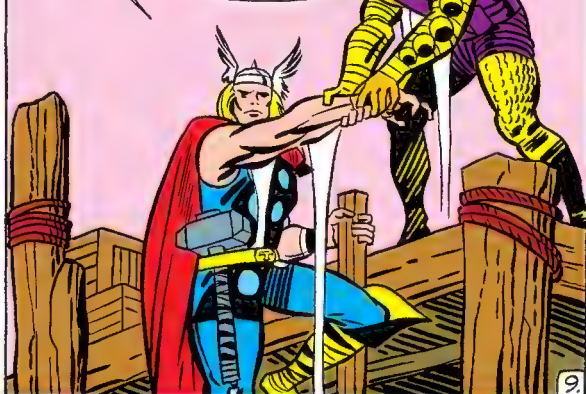
HURRY!! I SINK DEEPER AND DEEPER!! FREE ME, SO THAT I CAN DESTROY THE POWER OF ODIN FOR ALL TIME!

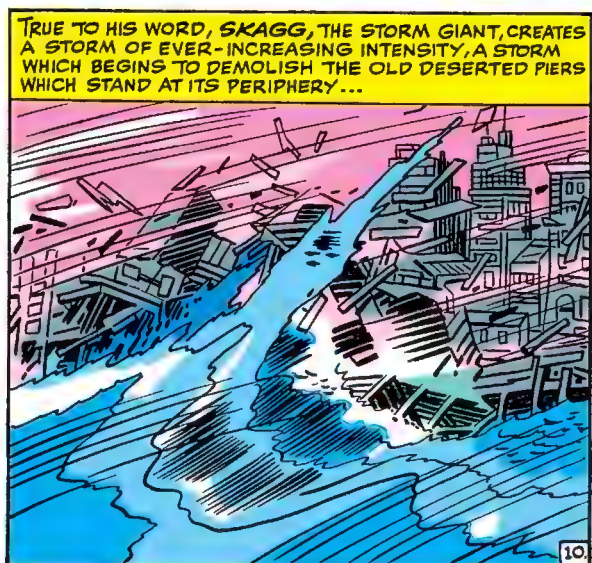
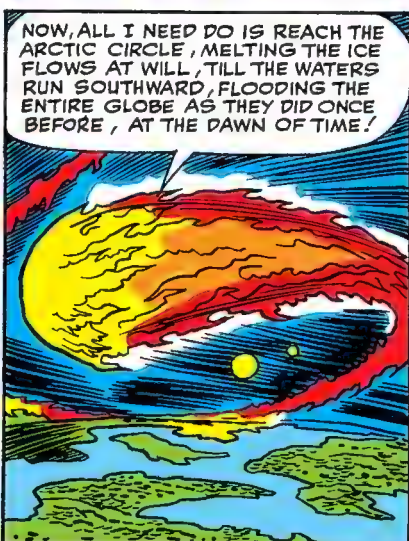
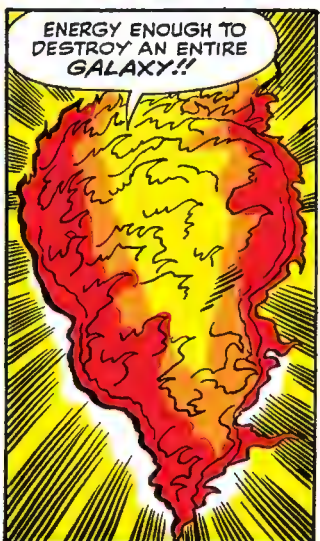
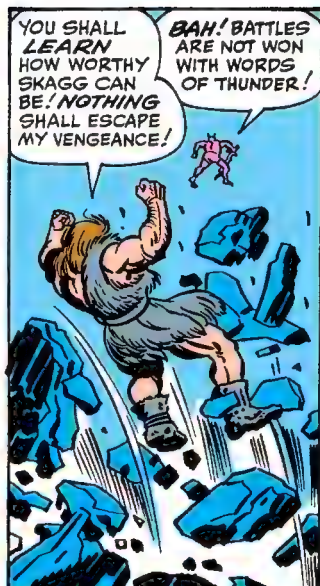
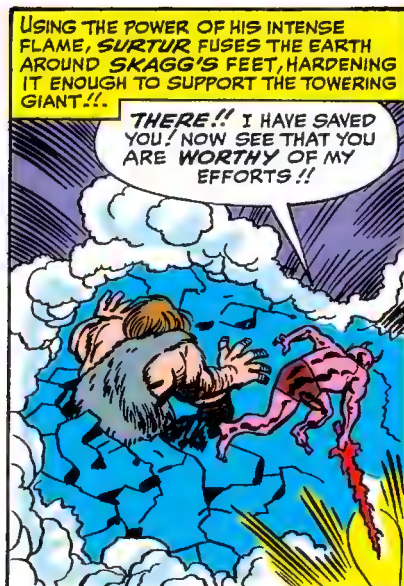
MY FATHER MUST HAVE ENTERED THE FRAY! I MUST RETURN TO SHORE... TO FIGHT SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH HIM!

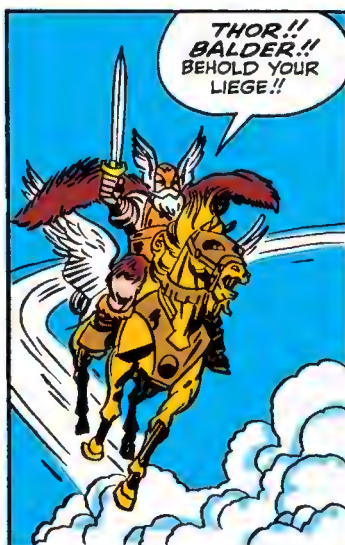
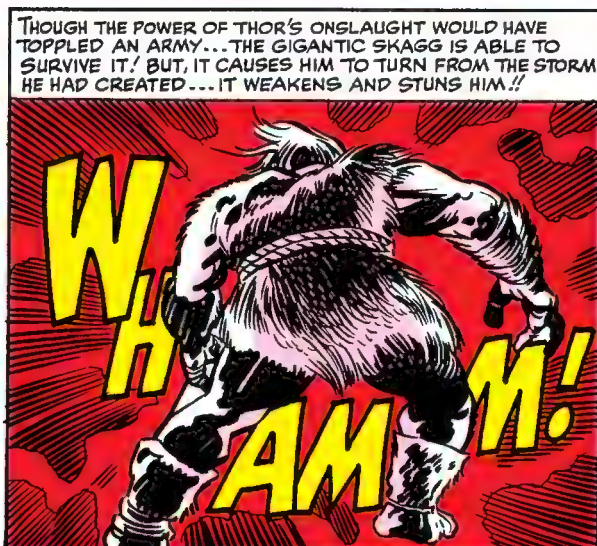
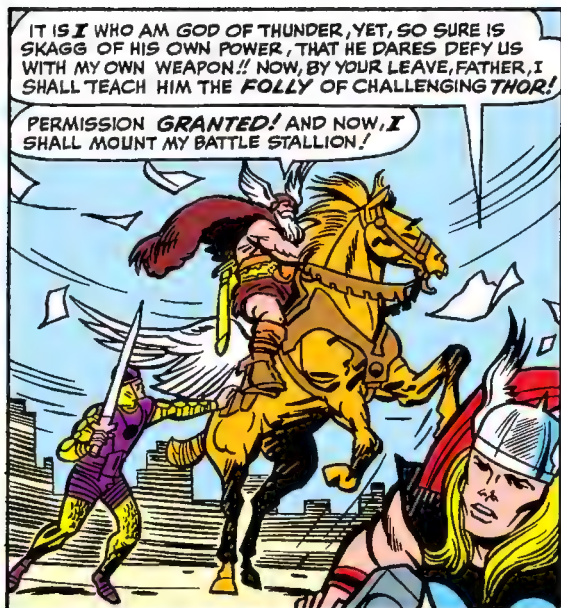


HOW GOES THE BATTLE, BRAVE **BALDER**?

IT HAS BUT **BEGUN!** BUT WE MUST TRIUMPH! FOR IF WE LOSE.. WE LOSE ALL!







BUT, ODIN DOES NOT SUSPECT THAT HE IS OPPOSING TWO IMMORTAL FOES! FOR, WATCHING UNSEEN FROM ASGARD, THE CRAFTY **LOKI** KEEPS REPLENISHING THE STRENGTH OF SKAGG WHICH ODIN DRAINS AWAY!



FINALLY HOWEVER, EVEN **LOKI'S** POWER WANES, AS HE SEES THE STORM GIANT WEAKEN AND CRUMBLE BEFORE THE SUPREME POWER OF THE FATHER OF THOR!



ANIC BEGINS TO WELL UP WITHIN **LOKI'S** BREAST AS HE REALIZES PART OF HIS PLAN HAS FAILED!! HIS ONLY REMAINING HOPE IS... **SURTUR!!**



AS FOR ODIN...

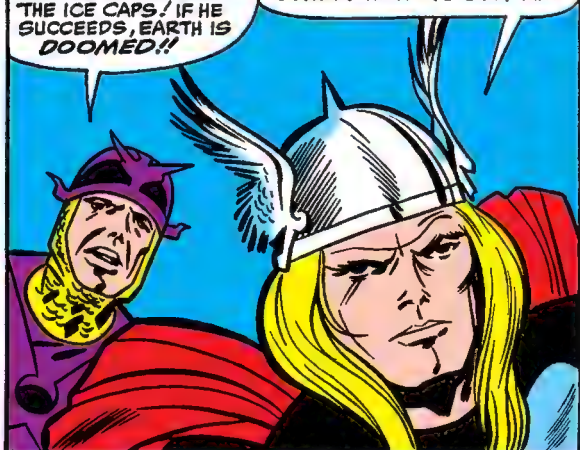
MY FATHER! YOU HAVE EXHAUSTED YOURSELF! LET **ME** BE YOUR SUPPORT! LET **MY** STRENGTH BE YOURS!

WORRY NOT ABOUT **ME!** FIND **SURTUR**... HE TOO MUST BE STOPPED ... BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!



THOR! HE HEADED FOR THE FROZEN NORTH, MUTTERING THAT HE WOULD MELT THE ICE CAPS! IF HE SUCCEEDS, EARTH IS **DOOMED!!**

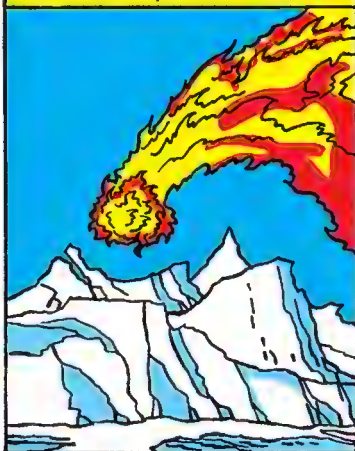
HE SHALL **NOT** SUCCEED! THOUGH WE CANNOT REACH HIM IN TIME, THERE ARE **OTHER** WAYS TO STOP HIM!!



SURTUR IS AN **OLDER** IMMORTAL THAN I, SO MY HAMMER MIGHT NOT PREVAIL AGAINST HIS POWER! **BUT...** THE SWORD OF ODIN... IT IS **OLDER** THAN ALL... AND ONLY ODIN'S SON CAN WIELD IT!



AT THAT MOMENT, MANY MILES TO THE NORTH, A GIGANTIC FIREBOLT IS ABOUT TO STRIKE THE ICECAPS, MELTING THEM...



...BUT IT IS DESTINED TO NEVER REACH ITS OBJECTIVE!! FOR SUDDENLY, IT IS DRAWN UP, FAR INTO OUTER SPACE, BY A POWER IT IS HELPLESS TO RESIST!



FURTHER AND FURTHER IT SPEEDS, HEADING TOWARDS A TINY ASTEROID IN ANOTHER GALAXY! A VERY SPECIAL ASTEROID!! AN ASTEROID WHICH IS COMPOSED OF MAGNETIC PARTICLES!



AND, THE INSTANT SURTUR COMES WITHIN RANGE, THE ATTRACTION OF THE ASTEROID HOLDS HIM... TRAPS HIM IN A GRIP WHICH GROWS EVER STRONGER... A MAGNETIC PULL WHICH WILL LAST FOR AGES TO COME!



AND BACK IN OUR OWN PRECIOUS GALAXY...

NOBLE ODIN, WE HAVE DISPATCHED EVIL SKAGG! HE IS AGAIN TRAPPED WITHIN THE ETERNAL CIRCLE OF FLAME!

AND SURTUR, IMPRISONED IN ANOTHER GALAXY, SHALL MENACE US NO MORE!



YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MY WARRIORS! AND NOW YOU SHALL RETURN WITH ME TO ASGARD! YOU HAVE BOTH EARNED YOUR REST! I SHALL SEND OTHERS TO WATCH OVER EARTH!

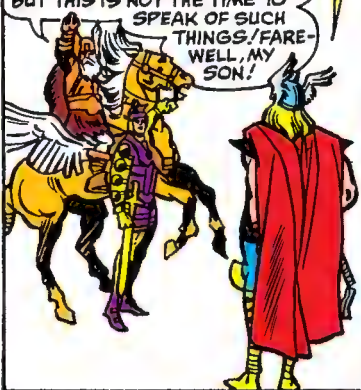
MY SON, WHY DO YOU LAG BEHIND?

I CANNOT GO!!



EARTH IS MY HOME, FATHER! AND THE HOME OF THE ONE I LOVE! I SHALL NEVER LEAVE! HERE SHALL I REMAIN... ALWAYS!

STILL YOU ARE OBDRATE! THEN WE HAVE SETTLED NOTHING! BUT THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO SPEAK OF SUCH THINGS! FAREWELL, MY SON!



RETURNING TO ASGARD, ODIN MAKES A SINGLE GESTURE, AND SUDDENLY ALL IS AS IT WAS BEFORE HE HAD COME TO EARTH...

OF THE BILLIONS OF MORTALS, ONLY I KNOW WHAT TRANSPIRED HERE WHILE TIME STOOD STILL!!



HELLO, JANE! SORRY TO BE REPORTING SO LATE...

NO NEED FOR YOU TO HAVE RUSHED, DOCTOR! ACTUALLY, IT'S BEEN A VERY QUIET DAY SO FAR!



AND, IN THE GREAT HALL OF ASGARD...

HEIMDALL HAS TOLD ME OF YOUR TREACHERY, LOKI! YOU WILL SERVE THE TROLLS UNTIL I SET YOU FREE! NOW GO, UNFAITHFUL ONE!



IN ALL THE UNIVERSE, THERE IS NONE BRAVER, NONE WORTHIER THAN THOR! YET, I FEAR FOR HIM... FOR THE FUTURE IS FRAUGHT WITH DANGER, AND HIS HEART IS WEAKENED BY LOVE!



NEXT ISSUE: THE MIGHTY THOR BATTLES A NEW EARTHLY MENACE... IN A TALE OF STARTLING DRAMA AND STRANGE SUSPENSE! TILL THEN, MAY THE EYES OF ASGARD BE EVER ON YOU!

The End.

**TALES
of
ASGARD**

HOME OF
THE MIGHTY
NORSE GODS

**BEGINNING: A NEW DIMENSION IN COMICS!
BIOGRAPHIES IN DEPTH OF ASGARD'S HEROES!**

HEIMDALL

GUARDIAN
of the
MYSTIC
RAINBOW
BRIDGE!



A TALE TOLD IN SPLENDOR
BY: STAN LEE

A DRAMA DRAWN IN GLORY
BY: JACK KIRBY

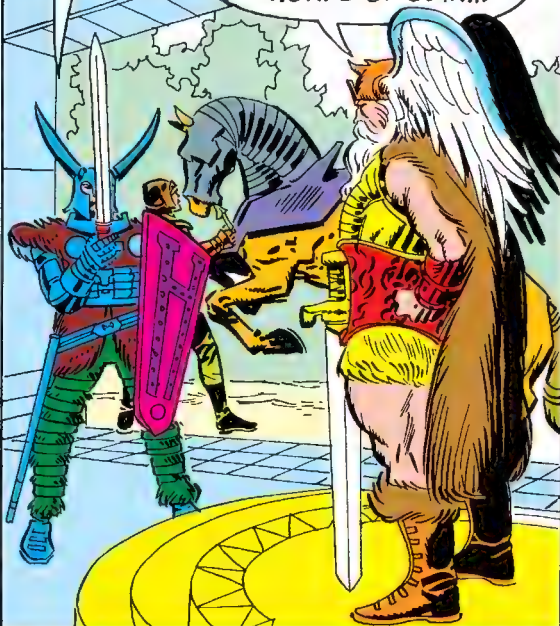
INKED BY: DON HECK LETTERING: ART SIMEK

ADDITIONAL
PROOF, IF ANY
BE NEEDED,
THAT THE
MARVEL
AGE OF
COMICS
IS HERE!

AGES AGO THE RAINBOW BRIDGE SPANNED THE VAST DISTANCE FROM EARTH TO ASGARD WITH NONE TO GUARD IT! BUT THEN, ONE DAY, A VALIANT WARRIOR WAS SUMMONED TO THE THRONE ROOM OF MIGHTY ODIN...

YOU SENT FOR ME, MY LORD?

YES, LOYAL HEIMDALL! ASGARD HAS NEED OF YOUR COURAGE, YOUR FIDELITY, AND YOUR SKILL! HEAR THEN THE WORDS OF ODIN...



TOO LONG HAS THE RAINBOW BRIDGE REMAINED UNGUARDED! TOO MANY TIMES HAVE OUR ENEMIES ATTACKED ASGARD BY CROSSING ITS SHIMMERING SPAN! THE BRIDGE NEEDS A **SENTRY!**



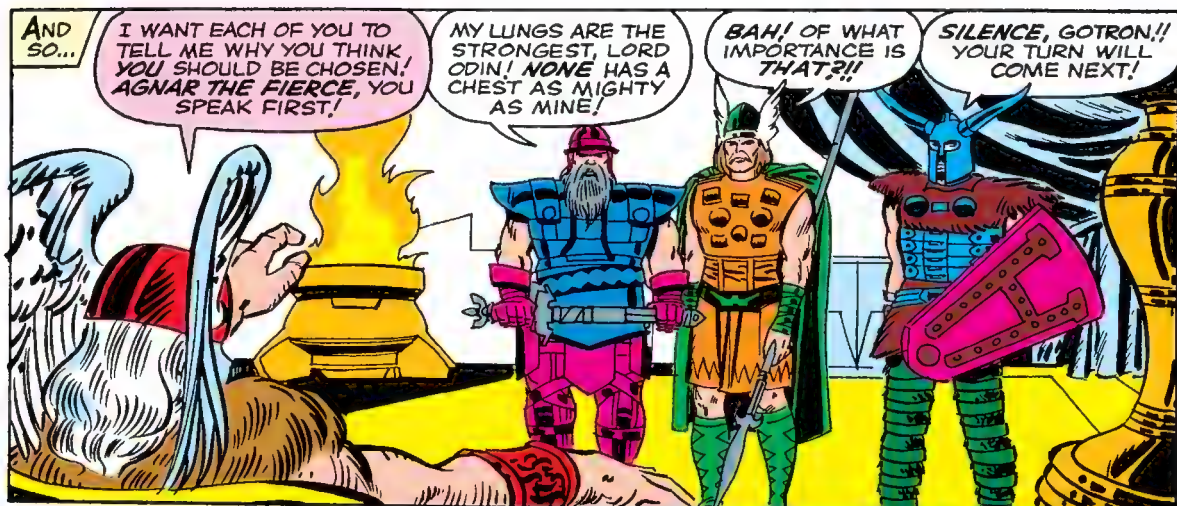
LOOK, YOU! MARK HOW EVEN **NOW** A LABOR FORCE OF TROLLS WORKS TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE WALLS OF ASGARD WHEN THE STORM GIANTS LAST CROSSED THE BRIDGE!

ONLY **THOR'S** MIGHTY HAMMER AND THE VALOR OF MY WARRIORS, SUCH AS **YOU**, SAVED ASGARD FROM BEING OVERRUN BY THE ENEMY!



AND **THAT** IS WHY I HAVE DECIDED TO APPOINT A **GUARDIAN** OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE! I HAVE SELECTED **THREE** WARRIORS--AND NOW I SHALL CHOOSE **ONE** OF YOU!





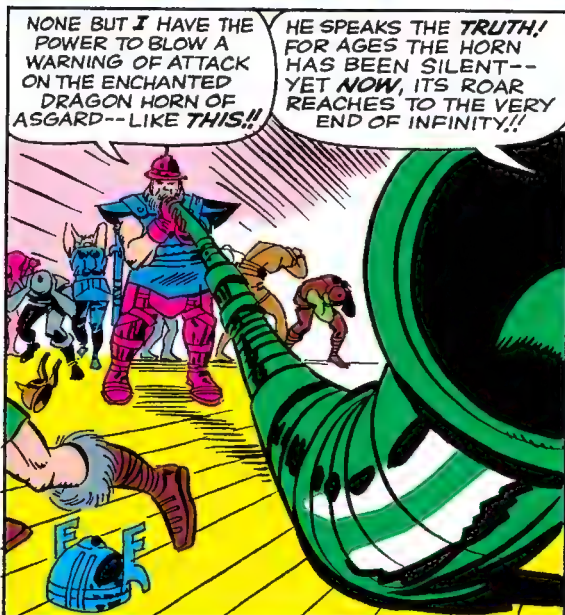
AND SO...

I WANT EACH OF YOU TO TELL ME WHY YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE CHOSEN! AGNAR THE FIERCE, YOU SPEAK FIRST!

MY LUNGS ARE THE STRONGEST, LORD ODIN! NONE HAS A CHEST AS MIGHTY AS MINE!

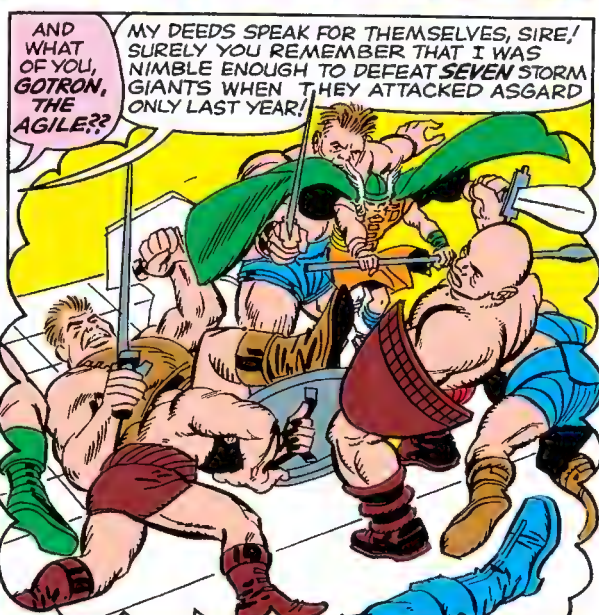
BAH! OF WHAT IMPORTANCE IS THAT?!!

SILENCE, GOTRON!! YOUR TURN WILL COME NEXT!



NONE BUT I HAVE THE POWER TO BLOW A WARNING OF ATTACK ON THE ENCHANTED DRAGON HORN OF ASGARD-- LIKE THIS!!

HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH! FOR AGES THE HORN HAS BEEN SILENT-- YET NOW, ITS ROAR REACHES TO THE VERY END OF INFINITY!!



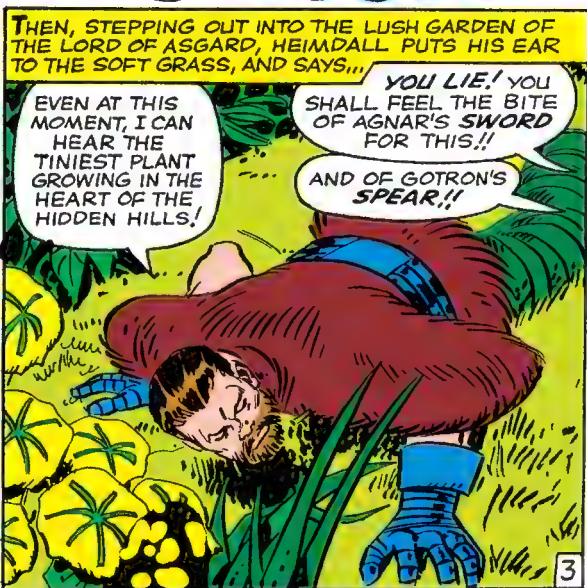
AND WHAT OF YOU, GOTRON, THE AGILE??

MY DEEDS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, SIRE! SURELY YOU REMEMBER THAT I WAS NIMBLE ENOUGH TO DEFEAT SEVEN STORM GIANTS WHEN THEY ATTACKED ASGARD ONLY LAST YEAR!



THUS HAVE AGNAR AND GOTRON SPOKEN! AND NOW, HEIMDALL THE FAITHFUL MUST BE HEARD!

MY LORD ODIN, MY STRENGTH IS A MATCH FOR ANY-- BUT I HAVE OTHER ABILITIES --- I CAN SENSE APPROACHING DANGER BEFORE ANY OTHER! I SHALL PROVE IT IN YOUR GARDEN...



THEN, STEPPING OUT INTO THE LUSH GARDEN OF THE LORD OF ASGARD, HEIMDALL PUTS HIS EAR TO THE SOFT GRASS, AND SAYS...

EVEN AT THIS MOMENT, I CAN HEAR THE TINIEST PLANT GROWING IN THE HEART OF THE HIDDEN HILLS!

YOU LIE! YOU SHALL FEEL THE BITE OF AGNAR'S SWORD FOR THIS!!

AND OF GOTRON'S SPEAR!!



STAND FAST!! ONLY ODIN COMMANDS HERE! WE SHALL **SEE** IF HEIMDALL LIES! GO, MY GARDENER... FLEE TO THE EXACT PLACE HEIMDALL MENTIONED AND **SEE** IF THERE GROWS A TINY PLANT!!

I OBEY, MY LORD! BUT IT CANNOT BE! **NOTHING** CAN GROW IN THE HIDDEN HILLS SINCE ONCE A **DRAGON** BREATHED HIS FIERY BREATH UPON THAT LAND!

EVEN NOW I HEAR THE TINY BUDS REACHING FOR THE SURFACE --EAGER TO FIND THE SUN!



TENSE MOMENTS LATER...

BY THE GODS!! HEIMDALL SPOKE THE **TRUTH!** AT THE VERY SPOT HE DESCRIBED-- A NEW PLANT--WHICH HAS JUST THIS SECOND BLOSSOMED INTO LIFE!!



THEN, WHEN THE ALMOST SPEECHLESS GARDENER RETURNS...

YOUR EARS INDEED ARE WONDROUS SHARP, LOYAL HEIMDALL! BUT I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU HAVE STILL **OTHER** POWERS!

THAT IS SO, MY LORD ODIN! NOTHING CAN ESCAPE THE SCANNING OF MY **EYES!**



I CAN LOOK ACROSS **TIME**, AS WELL AS SPACE!! EVEN NOW I SEE THE FAR-OFF APPROACH OF AN INVADING PARTY, MARCHING TOWARDS THE RAINBOW BRIDGE! THEY ARE A SAVAGE BAND OF STORM GIANTS, STILL A FULL TWO DAYS AWAY!

NOT DARING TO IGNORE HEIMDALL'S DRAMATIC WARNING, ODIN IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHES A HEAVILY-ARMED WAR PARTY TO MEET THE INVADERS BEFORE THEY CAN REACH THE VITAL RAINBOW BRIDGE!

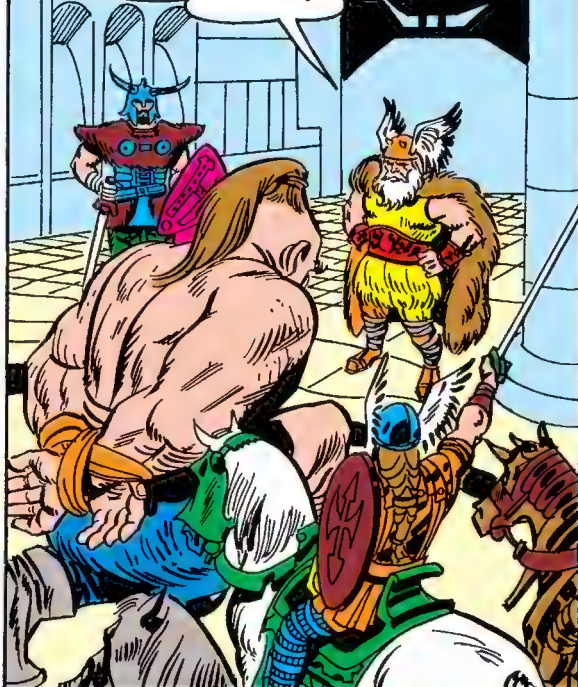
CAN HEIMDALL REALLY HAVE SEEN AN ENEMY TWO DAYS AWAY??

THE WORDS OF LOYAL HEIMDALL ARE ALWAYS CLOAKED IN TRUTH!

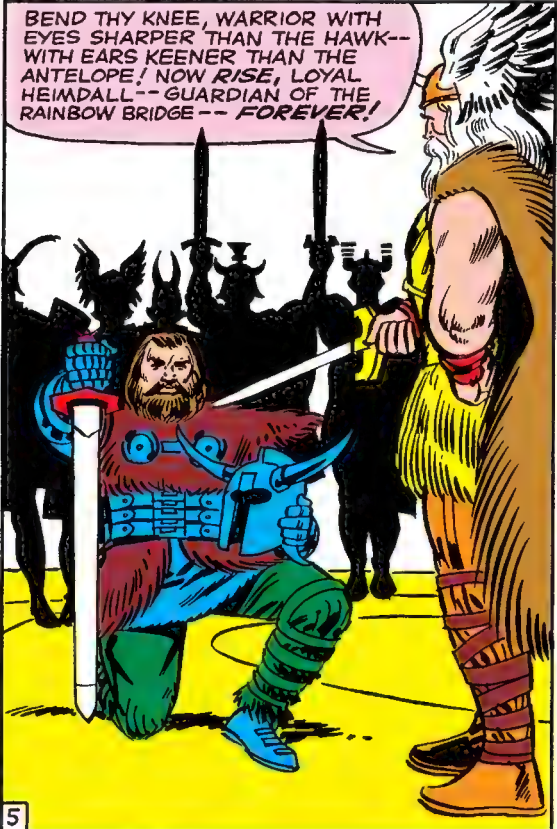


AND, BEFORE THE WEEK HAS PASSED, THE WAR PARTY RETURNS--WITH A VALUABLE PRISONER--THE KING OF THE STORM GIANTS!

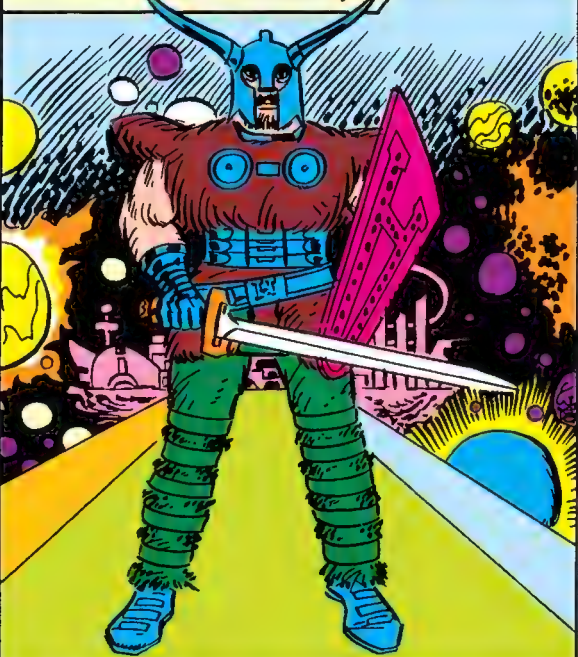
AGAIN YOUR WORDS HAVE BORNE THE RING OF TRUTH, HEIMDALL! YOUR WARNING HAS SAVED ASGARD FROM A DANGEROUS ATTACK!



BEND THY KNEE, WARRIOR WITH EYES SHARPER THAN THE HAWK--WITH EARS KEENER THAN THE ANTELOPE! NOW RISE, LOYAL HEIMDALL--GUARDIAN OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE--FOREVER!



AND THUS STANDS HEIMDALL, THE ALL-SEEING, THE ALL-HEARING! HEIMDALL, THE EVER-VIGILANT! HEIMDALL, ETERNAL PROTECTOR OF THE FABLED LAND MEN CALL... ASGARD!



NEXT ISSUE-- THE NEVER-BEFORE-REVEALED ACCOUNT OF THE TIME HEIMDALL FAILED! AN EPIC SAGA YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
WITH



THE MIGHTY THOR

105
JUNE

**A
NEW
MARVEL
SUPER-
SPECTACULAR!**

**BACK ON THE RAMPAGE
AGAIN!!**

**"THE COBRA
and
MR. HYDE!"**



**DON'T
MISS THE
LATEST
"TALE OF
ASGARD"**

**"WHEN
HEIMDALL
FAILED!"**

THE MIGHTY THOR! "THE COBRA and MR. HYDE!"

OUR SCENE IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE AVENGERS, WHERE WE FIND EARTH'S MIGHTIEST TEAM OF SUPER-HEROES AT THE CONCLUSION OF ONE OF THEIR REGULAR MEETINGS...

WRITTEN BY
HAPPY
STAN
LEE

DRAWN BY
HEALTHY
JACK
KIRBY

INKED BY
HUSKY
CHIC
STONE

LETTERED BY HASTY ART SIMEK

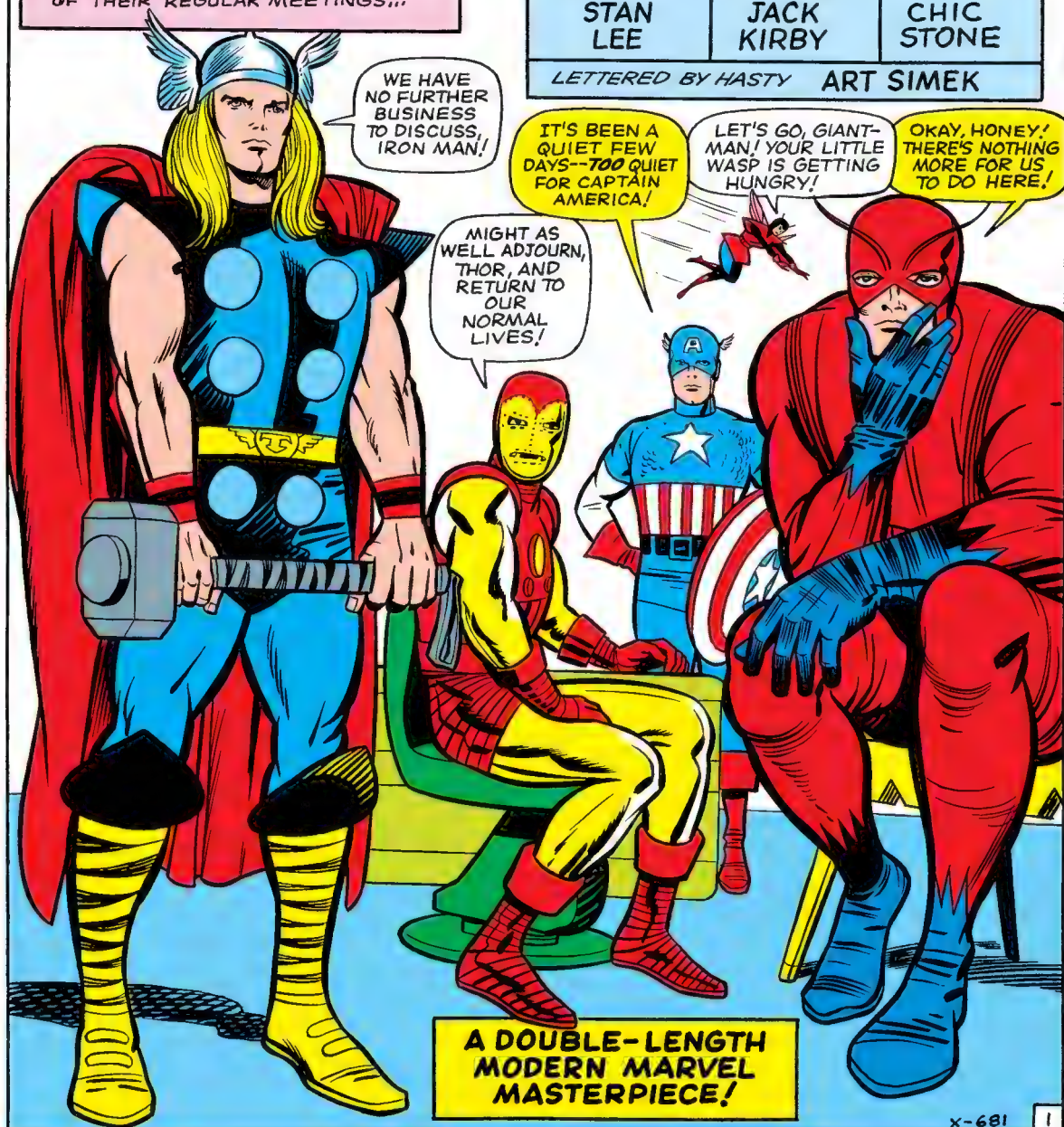
WE HAVE
NO FURTHER
BUSINESS
TO DISCUSS,
IRON MAN!

IT'S BEEN A
QUIET FEW
DAYS--700 QUIET
FOR CAPTAIN
AMERICA!

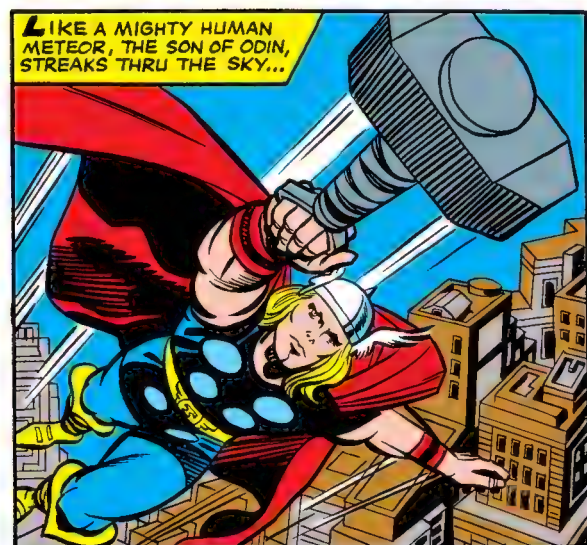
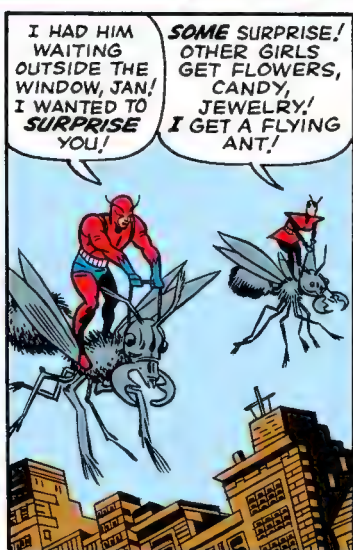
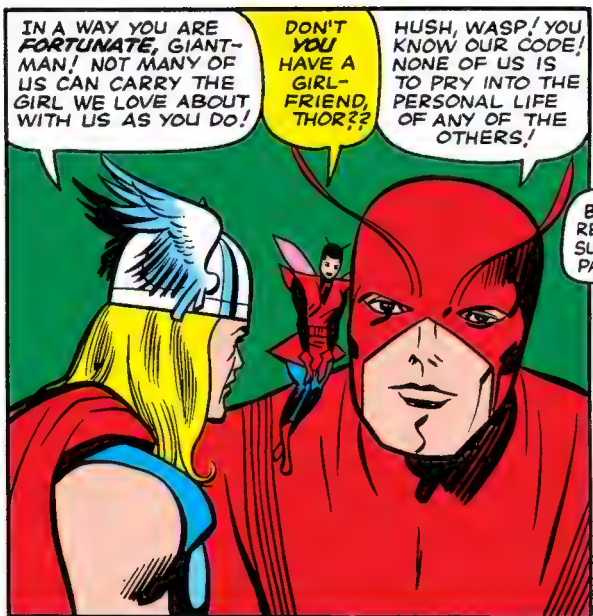
LET'S GO, GIANT-
MAN! YOUR LITTLE
WASP IS GETTING
HUNGRY!

OKAY, HONEY!
THERE'S NOTHING
MORE FOR US
TO DO HERE!

MIGHT AS
WELL ADJOURN,
THOR, AND
RETURN TO
OUR
NORMAL
LIVES!



A DOUBLE-LENGTH
MODERN MARVEL
MASTERPIECE!



THEN SUDDENLY, ATOP A NEARBY STEEPLE, THE THUNDER GOD SEES...

THE COBRA!! HE'S AT LARGE AGAIN!! * WHAT NEW DEVILTRY IS HE PLANNING??

THOR!! I MUSTN'T LET HIM GET ME!!

*THE COBRA FIRST APPEARED IN JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #98-EDITOR.

I MISSED! HE IS FASTER-- MORE SLIPPERY THAN EVER!

THOR WILL GET ME SOONER OR LATER--UNLESS I CAN STOP HIM WITH MY "SERPENT'S STING"!

SUDDENLY, FROM A SPECIALLY-DESIGNED WRIST DEVICE, THE COBRA EJECTS THREE FAST-MOVING DELAYED-ACTION VIALS!

AS THEY NEAR THE THUNDER GOD AT BLINDING SPEED, THEIR MINIATURIZED FIRST STAGE DROPS OFF, AND...

...THREE DAZZLING LIGHTS OF GREAT INTENSITY FLASH IN FRONT OF MIGHTY THOR, BLINDING HIM FOR AN INSTANT...

THAT GLARE-- CAN'T SEE--

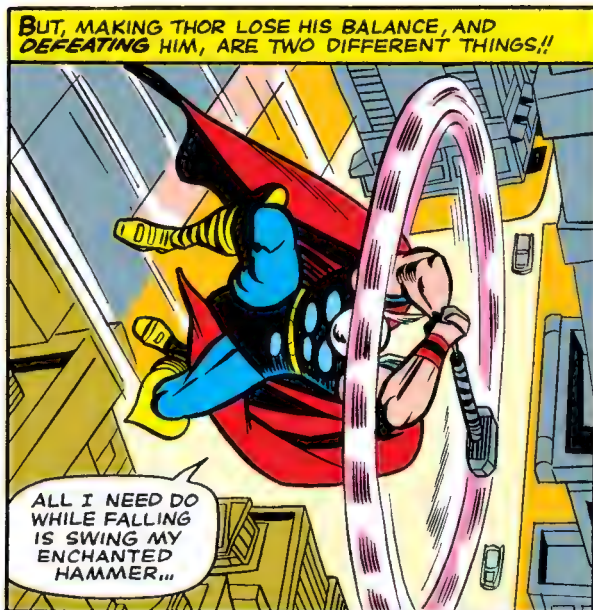
THEN, AS HIS SIGHT RETURNS, THE VIALS' SECONDARY EFFECT TAKES PLACE, AS THE THUNDER GOD FEELS HIS SENSES SPIN...

NOW, WHILE HE IS STILL DAZED, I'LL YANK HIM OFF BALANCE WITH MY "COBRA CABLE"!

AND, BEFORE THE IMMORTAL AVENGER CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE...

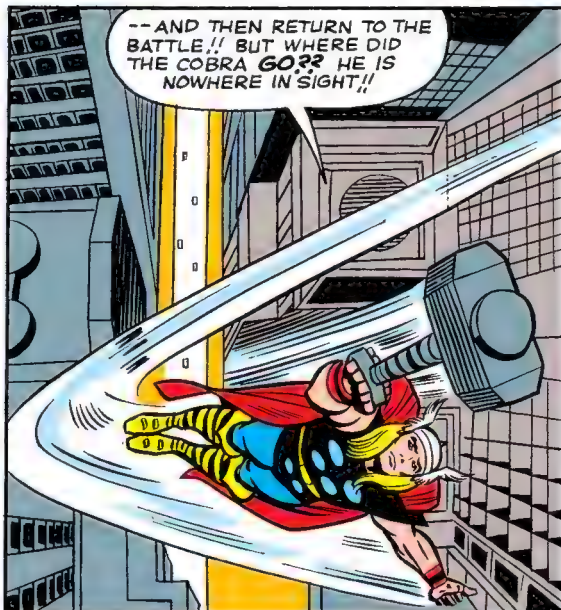
SOMETHING CAUGHT MY LEG-- TUGGED ME OFF THE LEDGE!! I'M FALLING!!

**BUT, MAKING THOR LOSE HIS BALANCE, AND
DEFEATING HIM, ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!!**

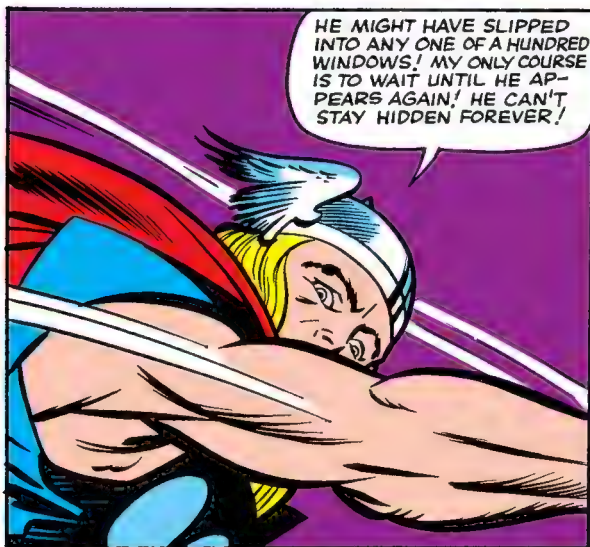


ALL I NEED DO
WHILE FALLING
IS SWING MY
ENCHANTED
HAMMER...

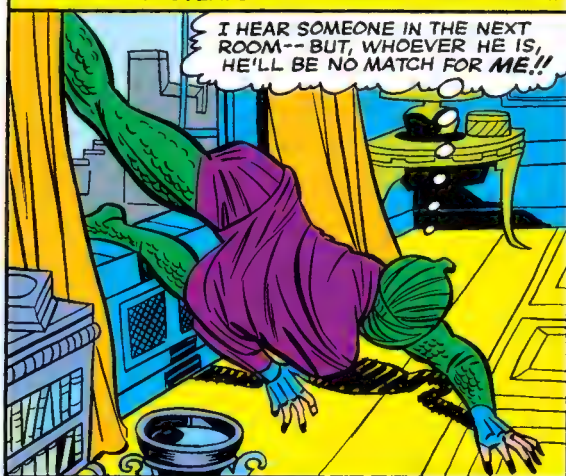
--AND THEN RETURN TO THE
BATTLE!! BUT WHERE DID
THE COBRA GO?? HE IS
NOWHERE IN SIGHT!!



HE MIGHT HAVE SLIPPED
INTO ANY ONE OF A HUNDRED
WINDOWS! MY ONLY COURSE
IS TO WAIT UNTIL HE AP-
PEARS AGAIN! HE CAN'T
STAY HIDDEN FOREVER!



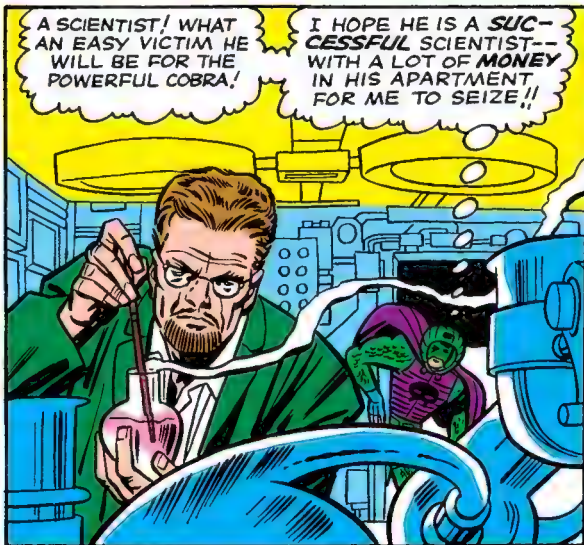
**NOW, LET US LEAVE THE DEPARTING THUNDER GOD
FOR A BRIEF TIME AND FOLLOW THE SINISTER
COBRA AS HE STEALS INTO A NEARBY APARTMENT...**



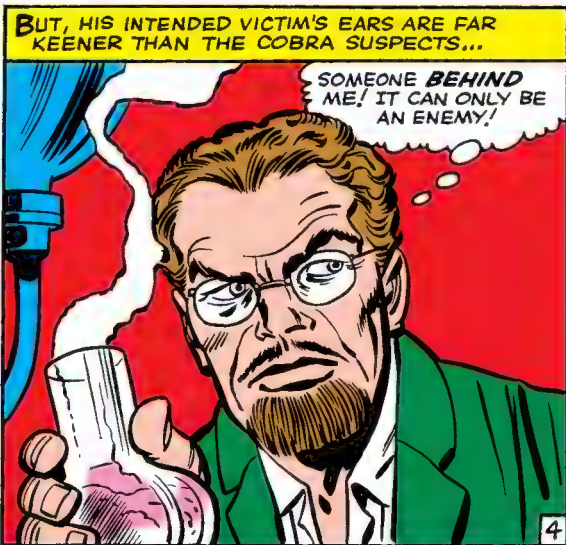
I HEAR SOMEONE IN THE NEXT
ROOM-- BUT, WHOEVER HE IS,
HE'LL BE NO MATCH FOR ME!!

A SCIENTIST! WHAT
AN EASY VICTIM HE
WILL BE FOR THE
POWERFUL COBRA!

I HOPE HE IS A **SUC-
CESSFUL** SCIENTIST--
WITH A LOT OF **MONEY**
IN HIS APARTMENT
FOR ME TO SEIZE!!



**BUT, HIS INTENDED VICTIM'S EARS ARE FAR
KEENER THAN THE COBRA SUSPECTS...**



SOMEONE **BEHIND**
ME! IT CAN ONLY BE
AN ENEMY!

THEN, BEFORE THE SERPENTINE FIGURE REALIZES WHAT IS HAPPENING, THE MAN IN THE LAB RAISES HIS GLASS BEAKER TO HIS LIPS, AND DRINKS DEEP!!



AHHHH! I FEEL THE MIRACULOUS EFFECTS OF MY POTION BEGINNING TO AFFECT ME **ALREADY!!** NO LONGER WILL I REMAIN THE UNKNOWN AND UNIMPORTANT DR. CALVIN ZABO...



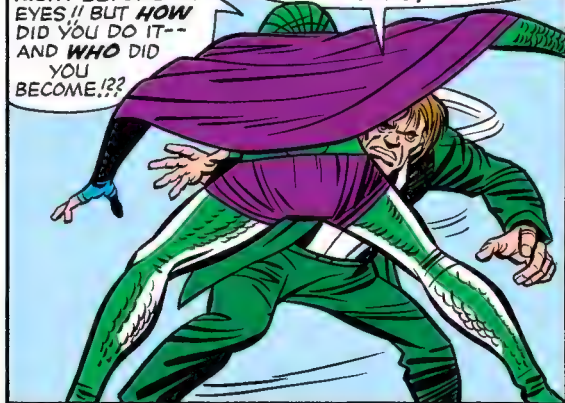
NO!! THANKS TO MY SECRET POTION, I'M NOW ONCE AGAIN **MR. HYDE**-- WITH THE STRENGTH OF A DOZEN MEN, AND THE CUNNING TO MATCH MY POWER!



HIS STARTLING TRANSFORMATION COMPLETED, THE SNARLING **MR. HYDE** TURNS TO FACE A MYSTIFIED **COBRA**!!

YOU CHANGED INTO ANOTHER MAN-- RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!! BUT **HOW** DID YOU DO IT-- AND **WHO** DID YOU BECOME,??

CALL ME **MR. HYDE**!! IT'S THE NAME THE **WORLD** WILL KNOW ME BY BEFORE VERY LONG!



AND NOW, I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO ANY COSTUMED FOOLS WHO DARE BREAK INTO THE LAIR OF **MR. HYDE**!!

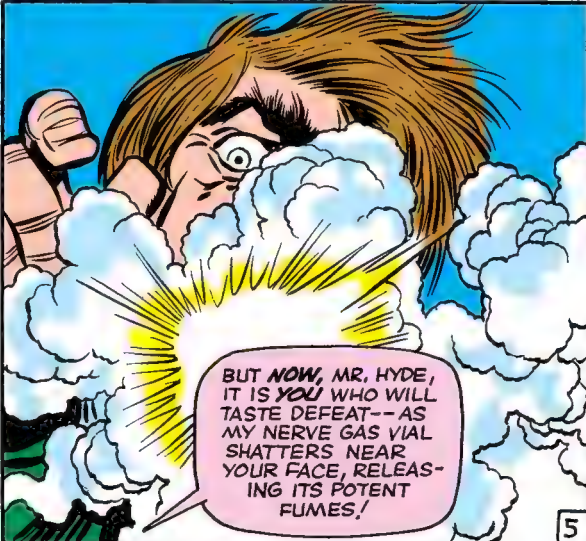


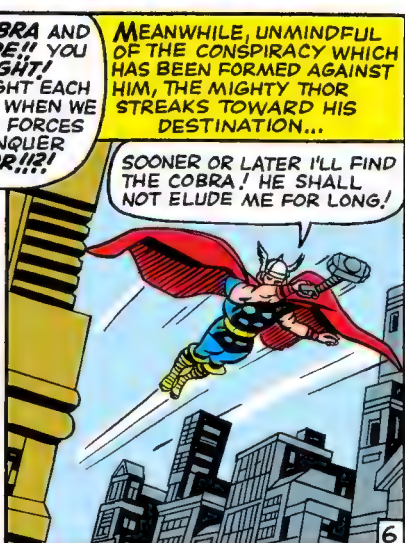
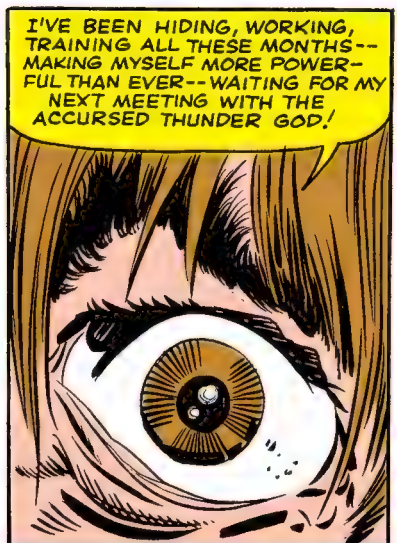
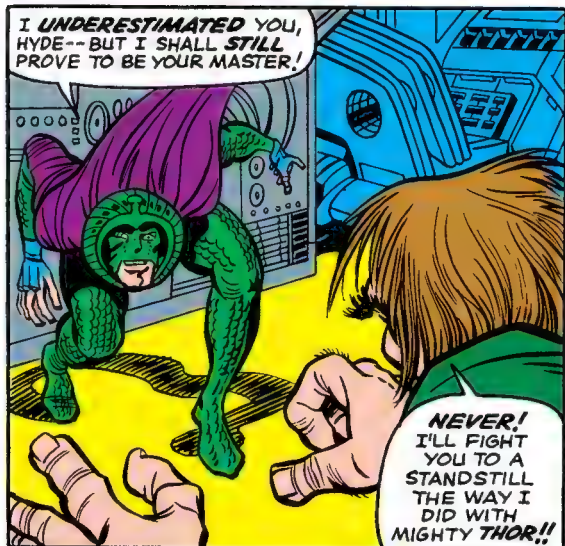
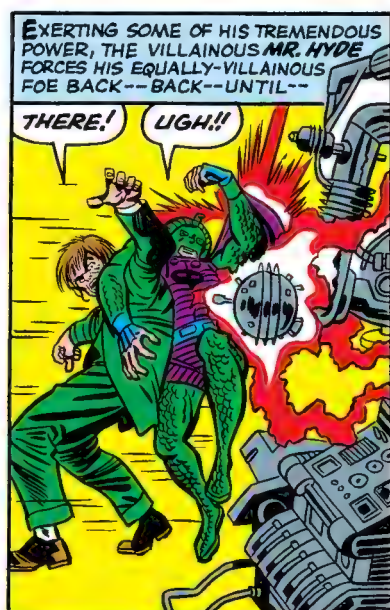
YOU HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE-- BUT NOW, THE **COBRA** WILL FIGHT BACK-- AS YOU FALL VICTIM TO MY "**STING**"!!

THE **COBRA**! I'VE HEARD THAT NAME! YOU **TOO** WERE DEFEATED BY **THOR**!

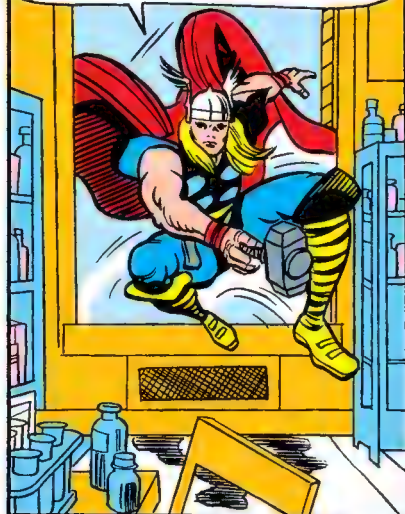


BUT **NOW**, **MR. HYDE**, IT IS **YOU** WHO WILL TASTE DEFEAT-- AS MY NERVE GAS VIAL SHATTERS NEAR YOUR FACE, RELEASING ITS POTENT FUMES!





BUT FIRST, I MUST RETURN TO MY WORK AS DR. DON BLAKE! I CANNOT REMAIN GONE TOO LONG WITHOUT AROUSING TOO MANY SUSPICIONS!



WITH A FIRM MUFFLED IMPACT, THOR'S ENCHANTED HAMMER STRIKES THE HARDWOOD FLOOR, AND THEN...

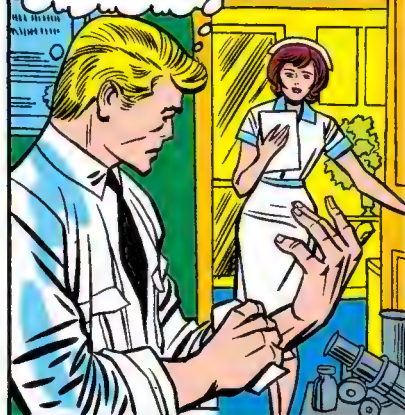


...IN THE SPACE OF A SINGLE HEART-BEAT, HE IS REPLACED BY THE MORTAL DR. DON BLAKE--AND HIS HAMMER HAS BECOME THE WALKING STICK OF THE LAME PHYSICIAN!



OH, DR. BLAKE! I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN!!

I PLANNED IT THAT WAY, JANE-- MY DARLING!



WERE THERE ANY IMPORTANT CALLS OR VISITORS TODAY?

HOW HARD IT IS TO SOUND BUSINESSLIKE WHEN I LONG TO TAKE HER IN MY ARMS AND TELL HER HOW I LOVE HER! BUT, I DARE NOT!



NO, DOCTOR-- IT'S BEEN VERY QUIET ALL DAY!

BY THE WAY, DOCTOR-- WOULD YOU MIND IF I LEAVE A LITTLE EARLY TONIGHT? I HAVE A DATE TO GO DANCING, AND I'D LIKE ENOUGH TIME TO GO HOME AND CHANGE!

THIS IS WHAT I ALWAYS FEARED! I **KNEW** SHE WOULDN'T WAIT FOR ME FOREVER! SOONER OR LATER SHE WAS BOUND TO FIND ANOTHER MAN...!!



I MUST ACT AS THOUGH I DON'T CARE--- FOR HER SAKE!

OF COURSE, JANE! I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME!

I WAS RIGHT! --SOB-- HE REALLY DOESN'T CARE! IF I MEANT ANYTHING TO HIM HE'D BE ANGRY -- JEALOUS! BUT HE'S NOT! MY LOVE MEANS NOTHING TO HIM!



BUT THERE IS ANOTHER, STILL MORE FATEFUL PROBLEM AWAITING THE TROUBLED MAN...

WHY BOTHER WITH YOUR COMPLICATED MACHINES?? WE CAN DEFEAT THOR BY FORCE!!

I'LL SHOW YOU WHY!





WE CAN'T DESTROY THOR UNTIL WE FIND HIM--AND MY TIME REVERSAL RAY WILL FIND HIM FOR US!

--- IT WILL SHOW US WHERE HIS HEADQUARTERS IS-- SO THAT WE MAY ATTACK HIM THERE, WHERE HE LEAST EXPECTS IT! THIS IS MY GREATEST INVENTION!



TIME REVERSAL RAY?? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT IS--? WAIT!! DON'T POINT IT AT ME!!

QUIET! I'M JUST GOING TO DEMONSTRATE HOW IT WORKS! DON'T FORGET I'M A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHER!! THAT'S HOW I DISCOVERED HOW TO CHANGE MYSELF INTO MR. HYDE! BUT NOW-- WATCH--

BZZZZZZZZZZ



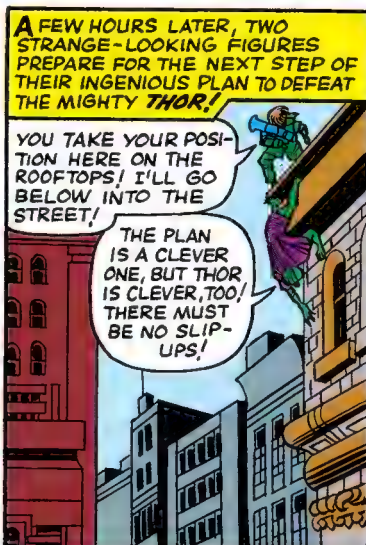
AFTER YOU AIMED IT AT ME AND FLIPPED THE SWITCH, IT STARTED TO PROJECT A PICTURE IN THE AIR! IT'S A PICTURE OF US-- AS WE WERE A FEW SECONDS AGO!!

EXACTLY! NOW SEE HOW IT SHOWS TIME GOING BACK, AS THOUGH WE'RE SHOWING A MOVIE BACKWARDS! IF WE KEEP WATCHING, IT'LL TAKE US BACK TO THE TIME YOU WERE BORN!



I GET IT!! IF YOU AIM YOUR RAY AT THOR, IT'LL SHOW YOU ALL HIS ACTIONS BACKWARDS, TRACING HIM BACK IN TIME UNTIL WE CAN SEE WHERE HE COMES FROM!!

AND THEN, ONCE WE KNOW WHERE HE HOLES UP, WE CAN ATTACK HIM AT OUR LEISURE!!



A FEW HOURS LATER, TWO STRANGE-LOOKING FIGURES PREPARE FOR THE NEXT STEP OF THEIR INGENUOUS PLAN TO DEFEAT THE MIGHTY THOR!

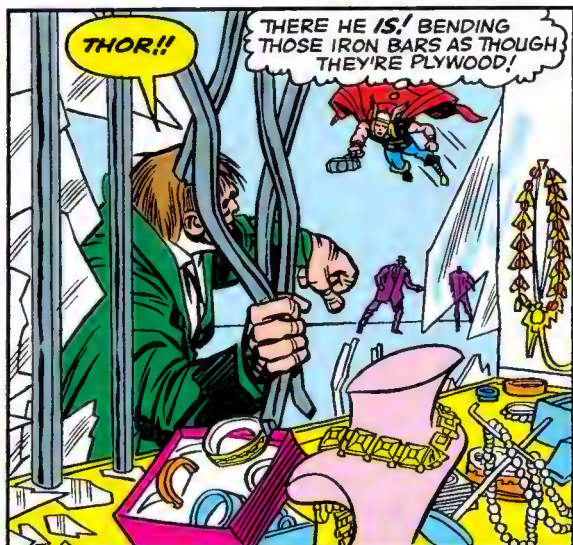
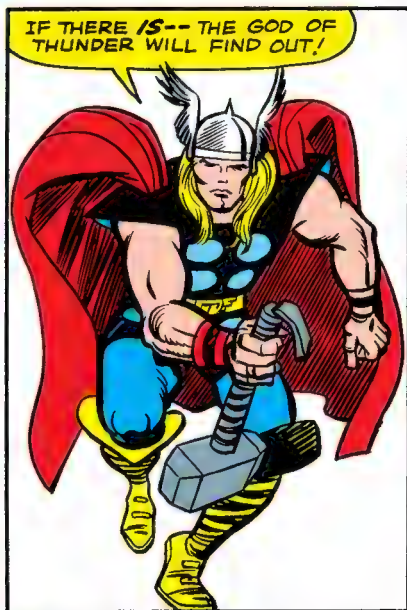
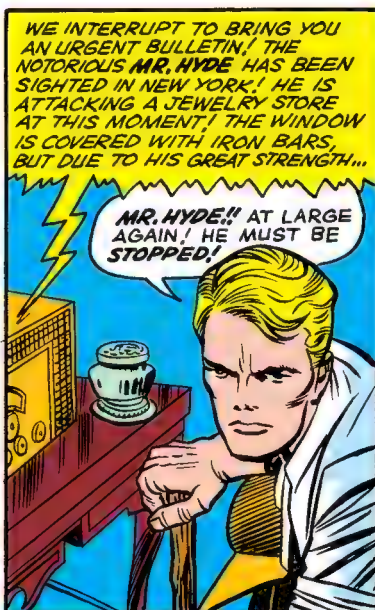
YOU TAKE YOUR POSITION HERE ON THE ROOFTOPS! I'LL GO BELOW INTO THE STREET!

THE PLAN IS A CLEVER ONE, BUT THOR IS CLEVER, TOO! THERE MUST BE NO SLIP-UPS!



MEANWHILE, ALONE IN HIS OFFICE, HAVING DISMISSED JANE FOSTER FOR THE EVENING, DR. DON BLAKE TURNS HIS RADIO ON, TO LEARN THE EVENING'S NEWS...

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP ME FROM THINKING OF JANE, MY JANE-- WITH ANOTHER MAN!



SECONDS LATER, ONCE HE HAS BRUSHED THE CHEMICAL IRRITANT FROM HIS EYES, THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD GIVES CHASE...



BUT, UPON REACHING A CROWDED SECTION OF THIRD AVENUE...



UNFORTUNATELY, THE IMMORTAL AVENGER HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING ABOUT MR. HYDE'S **OTHER** IDENTITY--NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT THE EVIL SCHEMER IS FACING HIM RIGHT NOW, APPEARING IN THE CROWD AS NORMAL-LOOKING CALVIN ZABO...

SO FAR, SO GOOD! THE **COBRA** IS IN THIS AREA SOMEWHERE! NOW, IF HE DOES **HIS** PART AS PLANNED, THOR WILL BE AS GOOD AS **FINISHED**!

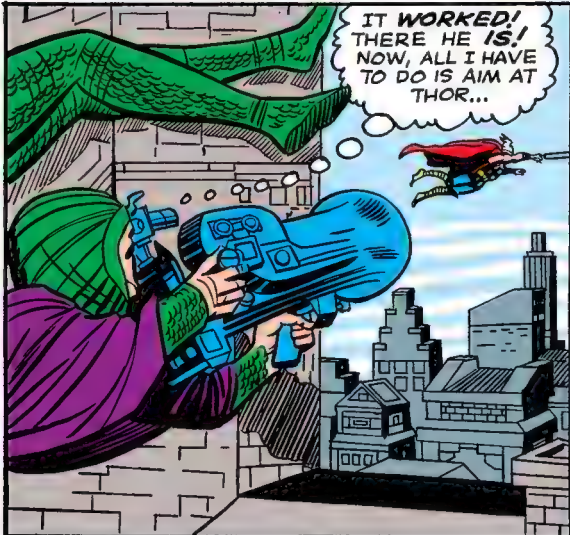


NO SENSE IN WASTING TIME NEEDLESSLY! I CAN SEARCH FAR BETTER BY COVERING THE NEIGHBORHOOD FROM THE **AIR**!!

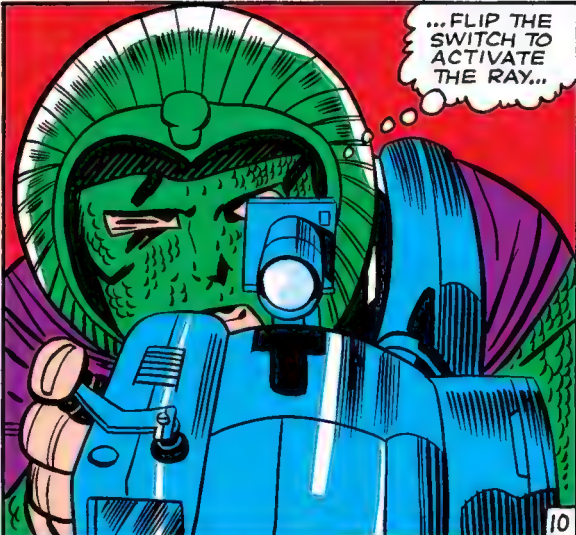
SO I'LL SWING MY ENCHANTED HAMMER AND BE ON MY WAY--!!!

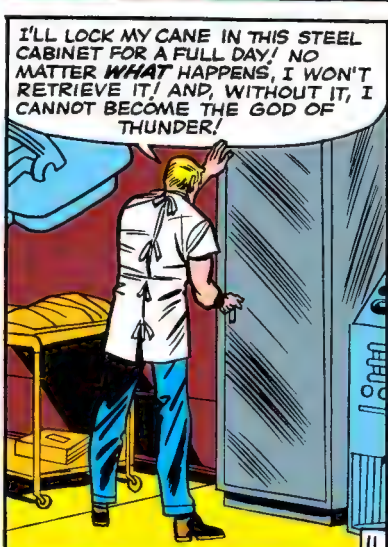
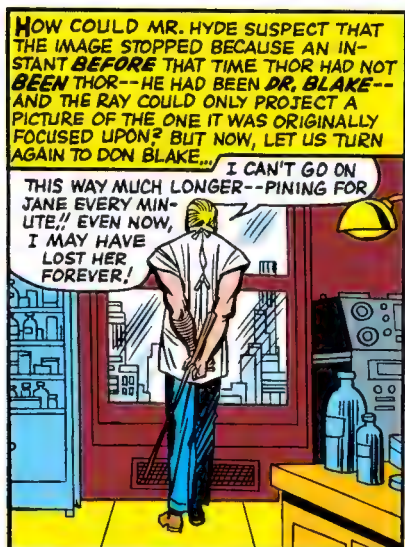
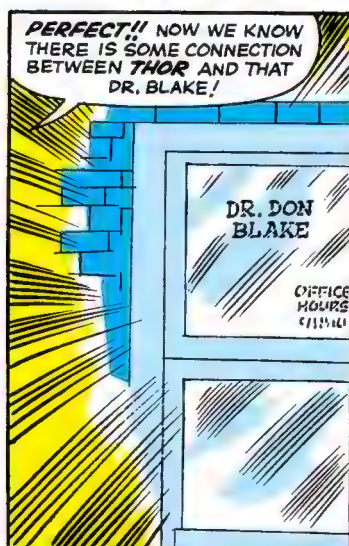
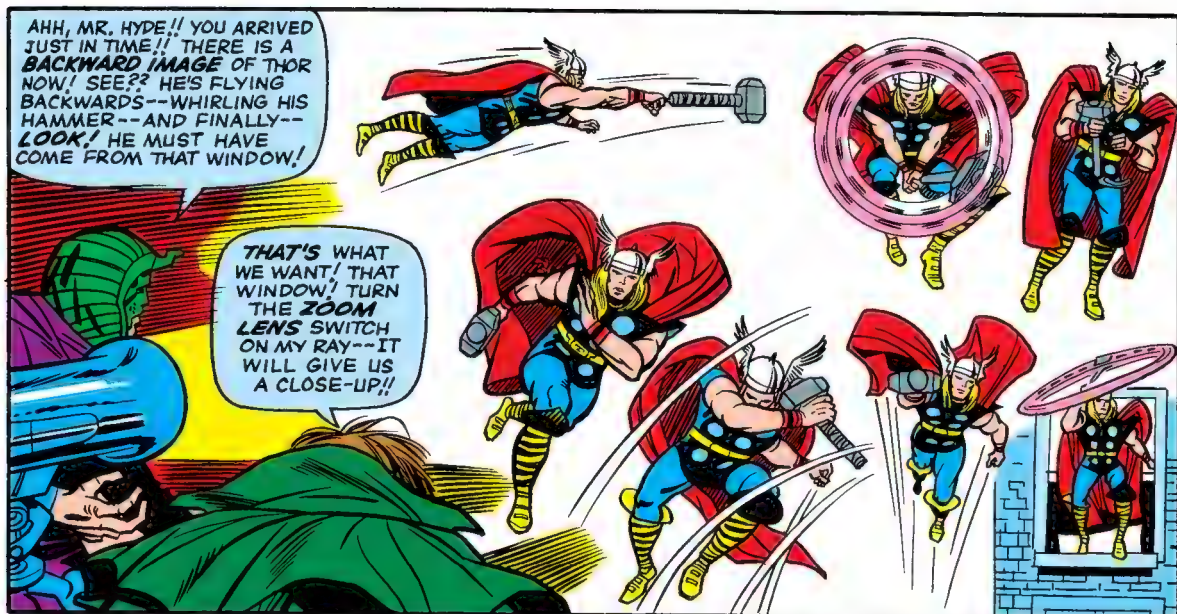


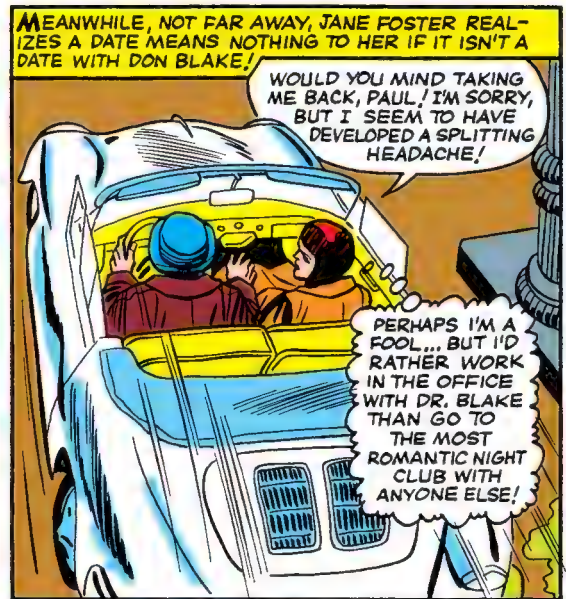
IT WORKED! THERE HE IS! NOW, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS AIM AT THOR...

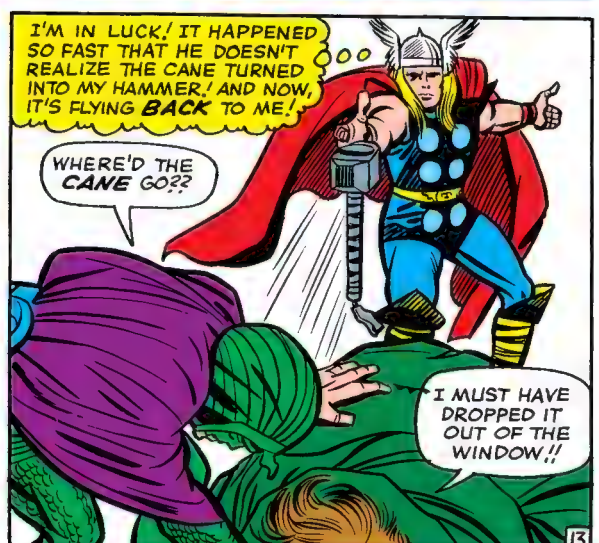
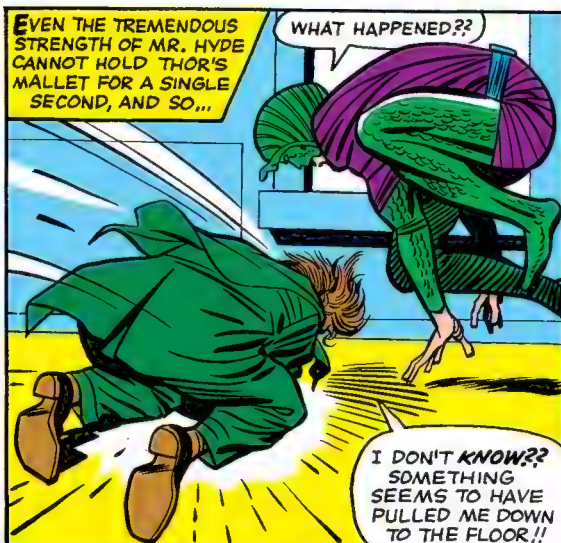
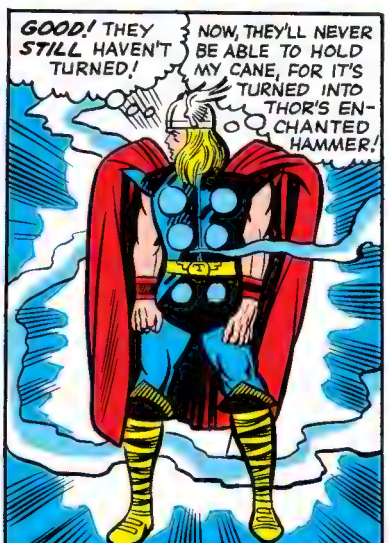
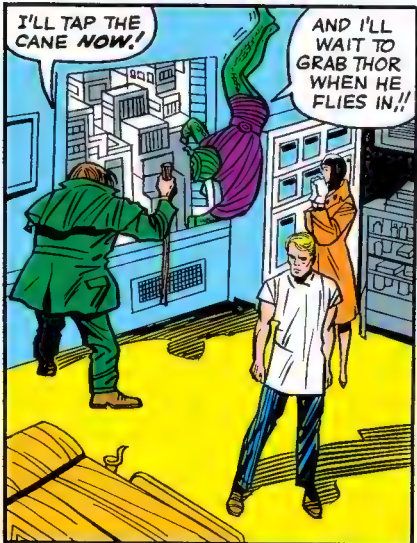
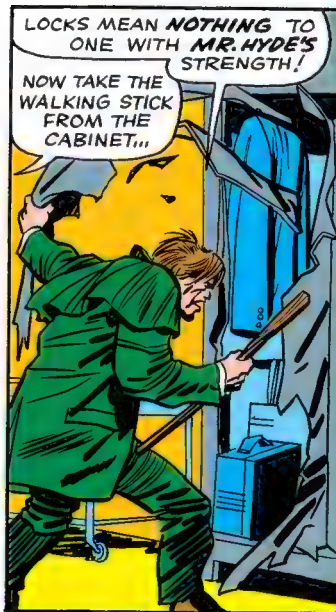


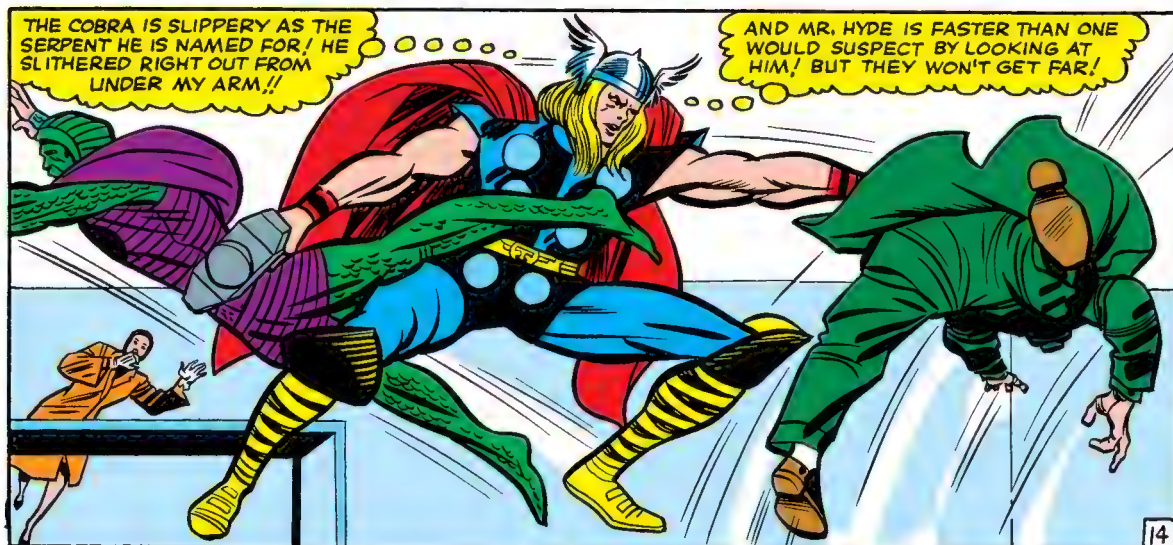
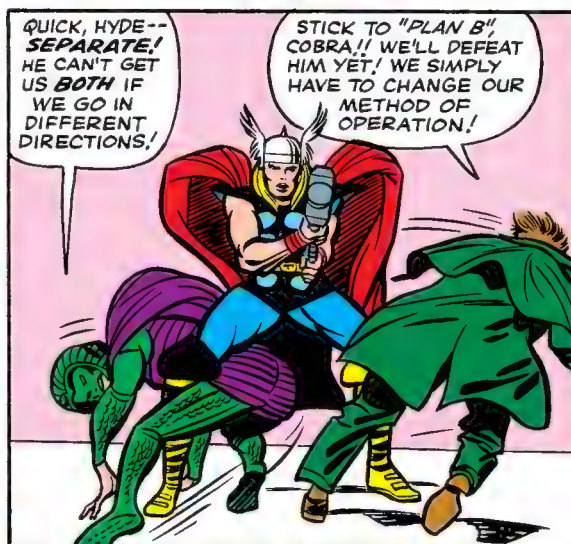
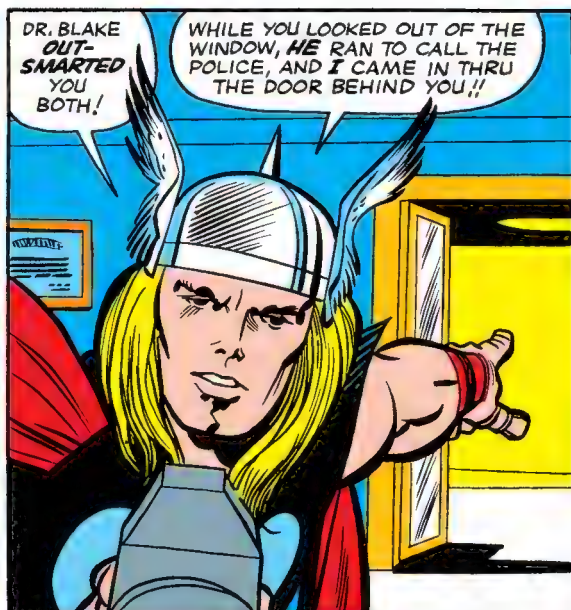
...FLIP THE SWITCH TO ACTIVATE THE RAY...













HAH! ONLY SOMEONE WITH THE SERPENTINE QUALITY OF A COBRA COULD DODGE THE MIGHTY THOR'S HAMMER!!!



NOW ALL I NEED DO IS SLITHER UP THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING AT SNAKE-LIKE SPEED!!!

MR. HYDE SAID TO EXECUTE 'PLAN B'!! THAT MEANS WE'LL LURE THOR TO ANOTHER PLACE WHERE THE ODDS WILL BE IN OUR FAVOR!!



WE'VE PLANNED TOO WELL TO BE FRUSTRATED NOW! NO MATTER *WHAT* MOVE THOR MAKES, WE'LL KNOW HOW TO BEAT HIM!



THEY WERE RIGHT! YOU *COULDN'T* FOLLOW BOTH OF THEM! THEY GOT AWAY!!

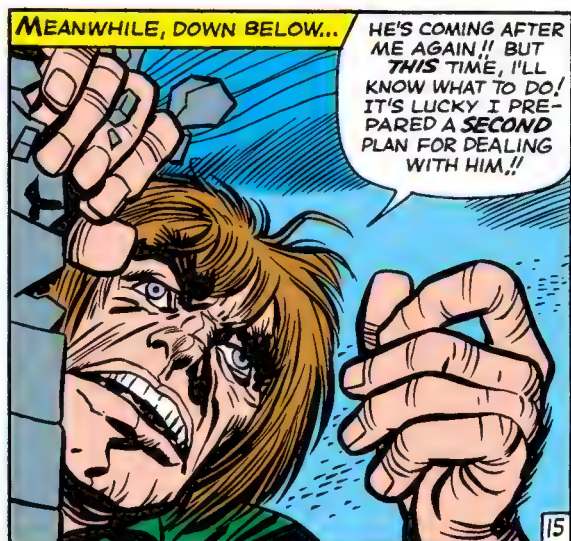
IT WAS ONLY A *TEMPORARY* VICTORY FOR THEM! REMAIN HERE TILL DR. BLAKE RETURNS FOR YOU...



...AS FOR ME, I'LL FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF MR. HYDE! SOONER OR LATER, HE'LL LEAD ME TO THE COBRA, AND THEN I'LL HAVE THEM *BOTH* AGAIN!

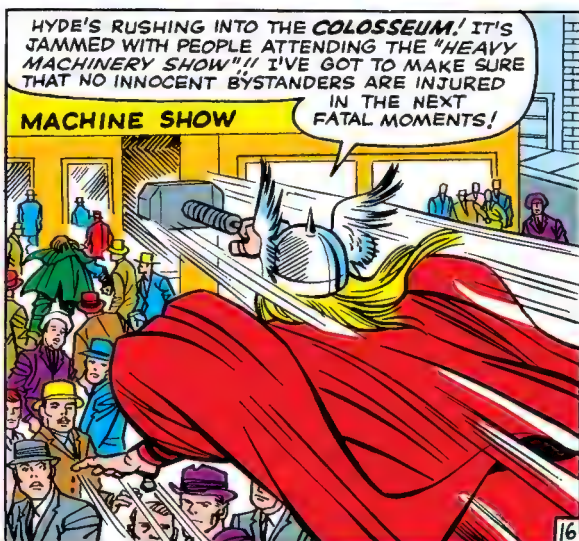
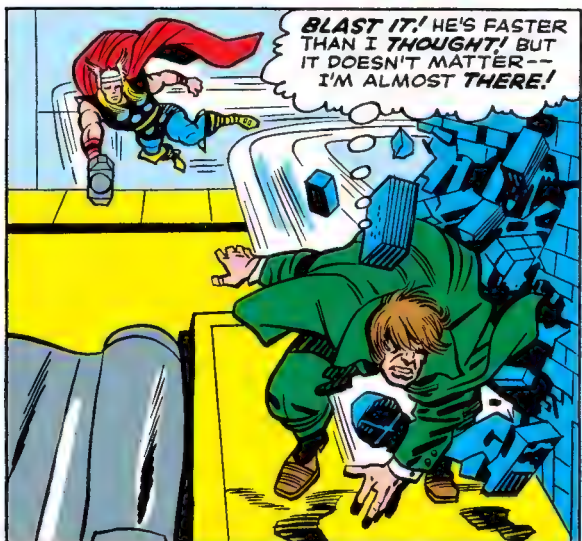
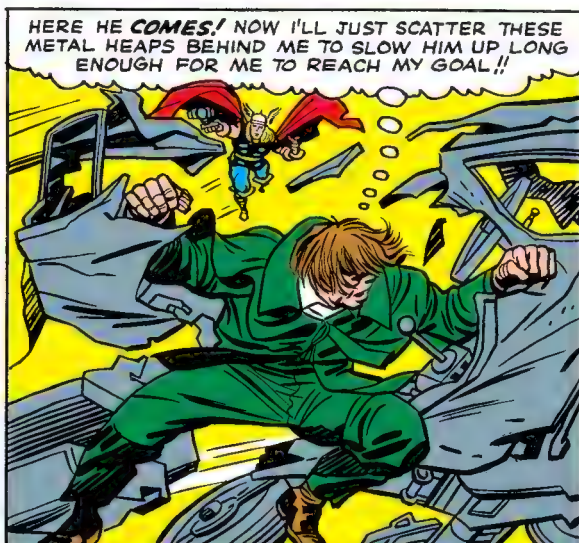
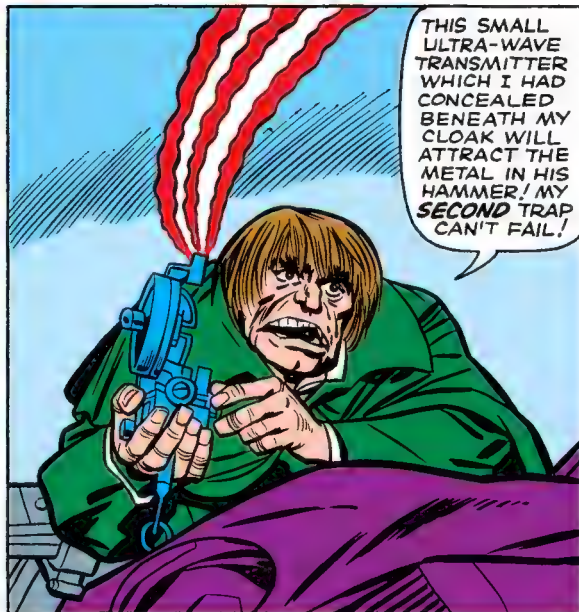
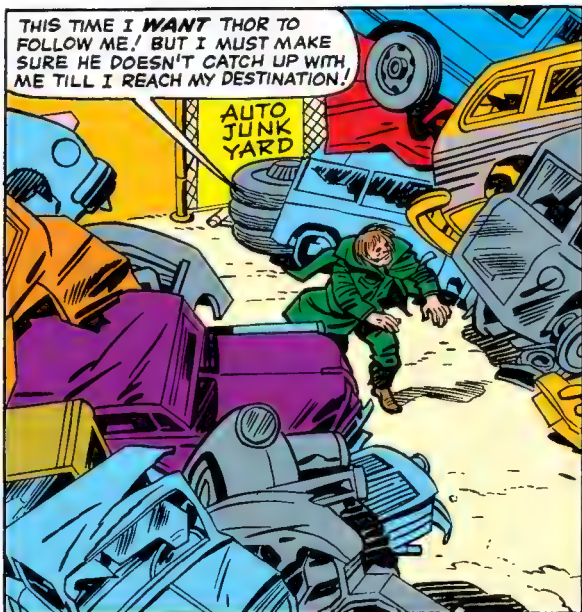


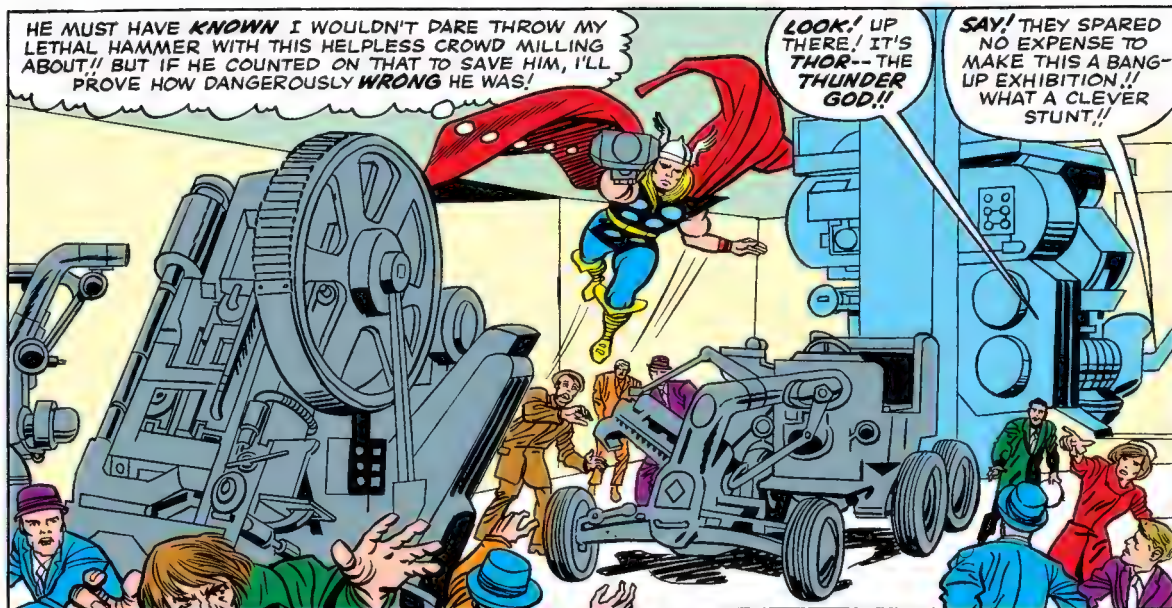
IT SEEMS I CAN *NEVER* GIVE UP THE ROLE OF *THOR*!! NOT SO LONG AS MENACES LIKE HYDE AND THE COBRA WALK THE EARTH!!



MEANWHILE, DOWN BELOW...

HE'S COMING AFTER ME AGAIN!! BUT *THIS* TIME, I'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO! IT'S LUCKY I PREPARED A *SECOND* PLAN FOR DEALING WITH HIM!!





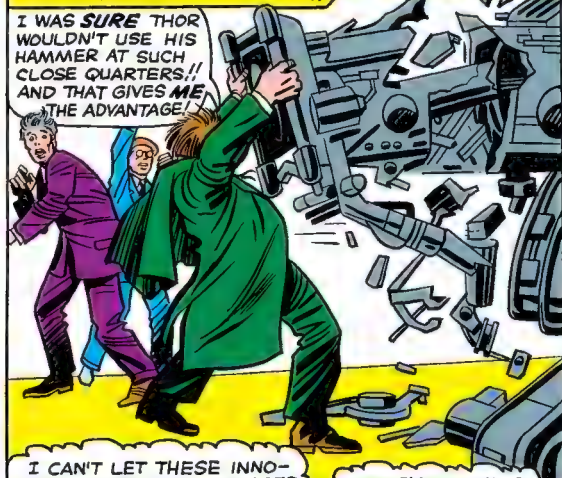
HE MUST HAVE **KNOWN** I WOULDN'T DARE THROW MY LETHAL HAMMER WITH THIS HELPLESS CROWD MILLING ABOUT!! BUT IF HE COUNTED ON THAT TO SAVE HIM, I'LL PROVE HOW DANGEROUSLY **WRONG** HE WAS!

LOOK! UP THERE! IT'S **THOR**-- THE THUNDER GOD!!

SAY! THEY SPARED NO EXPENSE TO MAKE THIS A BANG-UP EXHIBITION!! WHAT A CLEVER STUNT!!

BUT THE ASTONISHED SPECTATORS ARE SOON TO LEARN THAT WHAT THEY ARE WITNESSING IS FAR FROM A "PUBLICITY STUNT"!!!

I WAS **SURE** THOR WOULDN'T USE HIS HAMMER AT SUCH CLOSE QUARTERS!! AND THAT GIVES **ME** THE ADVANTAGE!



I CAN'T LET THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE BE MENACED BY THAT SAVAGE BRUTE!! BUT NEITHER CAN I YIELD TO HIM-- HE **MUST** BE STOPPED, WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!

BUT HE'S TURNING ALL HIS SUPER-STRENGTH AGAINST ME!!



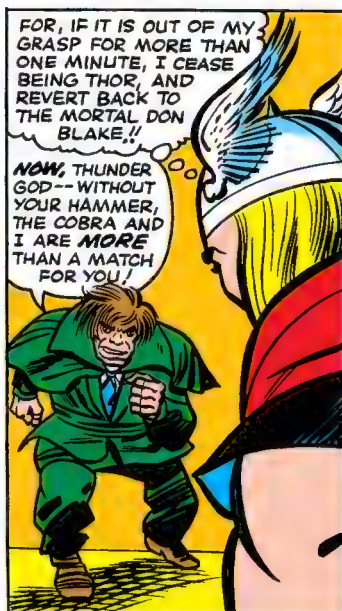
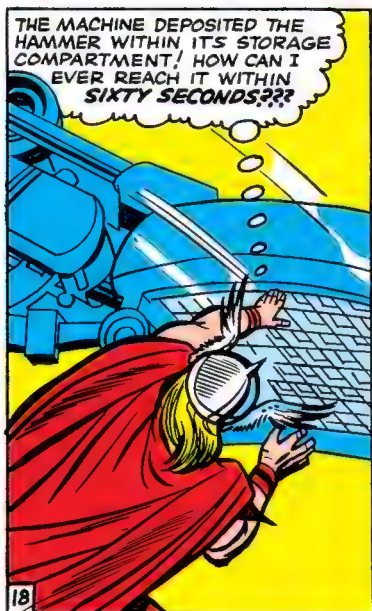
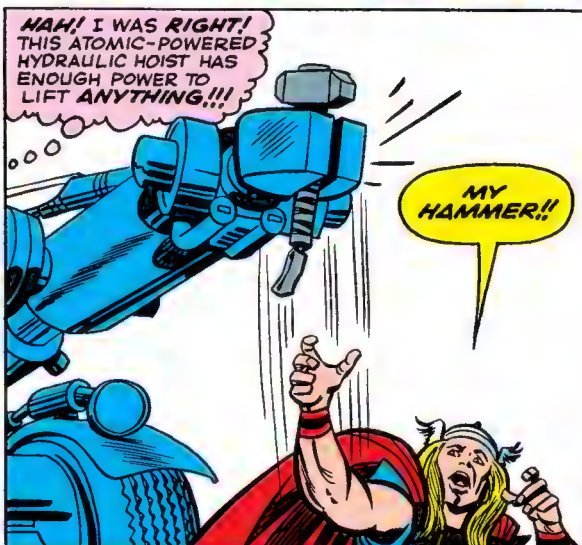
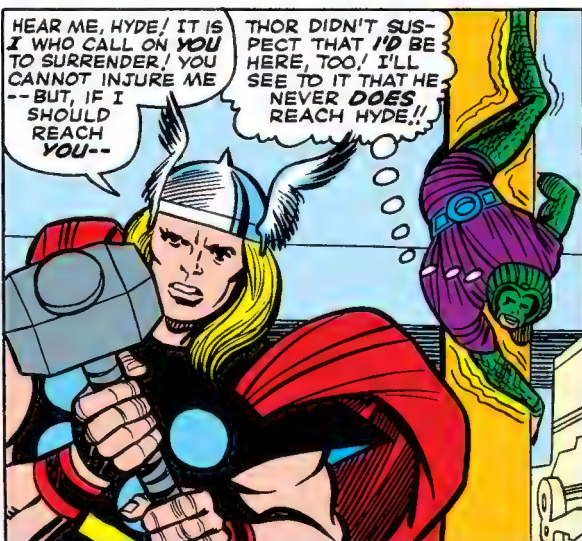
FOR **MR. HYDE** DOESN'T CARE **WHAT** DAMAGE HE DOES-- OR WHO GETS INJURED!!

SURRENDER TO ME, THOR!! IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TURN THIS PLACE INTO A SHAMBLES, **GIVE UP!**



I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE-- I HAVE TO USE MY POWER DEFENSIVELY... UNTIL I CAN THINK OF A PLAN!





I HAVE LONG KNOWN THAT NOTHING **HUMAN** CAN LIFT THOR'S ACCURSED HAMMER! BUT--

--I SUSPECT THAT SOMETHING WHICH IS **NOT HUMAN**-- IF IT HAS ENOUGH **POWER**-- CAN DO WHAT NO LIVING BEING CAN DO!!

MAH! I WAS RIGHT! THIS ATOMIC-POWERED HYDRAULIC HOIST HAS ENOUGH POWER TO LIFT ANYTHING!!!

MY HAMMER!!

THE MACHINE DEPOSITED THE HAMMER WITHIN ITS STORAGE COMPARTMENT! HOW CAN I EVER REACH IT WITHIN **SIXTY SECONDS???**

FOR, IF IT IS OUT OF MY GRASP FOR MORE THAN ONE MINUTE, I CEASE BEING THOR, AND REVERT BACK TO THE MORTAL DON BLAKE!!

NOW, THUNDER GOD-- WITHOUT YOUR HAMMER, THE COBRA AND I ARE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR YOU!

LITTLE DO THEY DREAM HOW **RIGHT** THEY ARE!! WITHIN A FEW SECONDS, LAME, POWERLESS DR. BLAKE WILL BE FACING TWO OF THE WORST MENACES ON EARTH!!

THE END

WE TOLD YOU THIS WAS A DOUBLE-LENGTH MARVEL MASTERPIECE, AND WE MEANT IT! NEXT ISH WILL FEATURE THE **CONCLUSION** OF THIS TALE, IN ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR BATTLES OF ALL! SO, DON'T MISS THE FINAL 18-PAGER IN **THOR #106**-- WE PROMISE IT'S WORTH WAITING FOR!!

**TALES
of
ASGARD**
HOME
OF THE
MIGHTY
NORSE GODS

"WHEN HEIMDALL FAILED!"

ALTHOUGH I AM KING OF THE
STORM GIANTS, I CANNOT
ATTACK ASGARD AS LONG
AS THE EVER-VIGILANT
HEIMDALL GUARDS THEIR
RAINBOW BRIDGE! IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE, NEDRA!

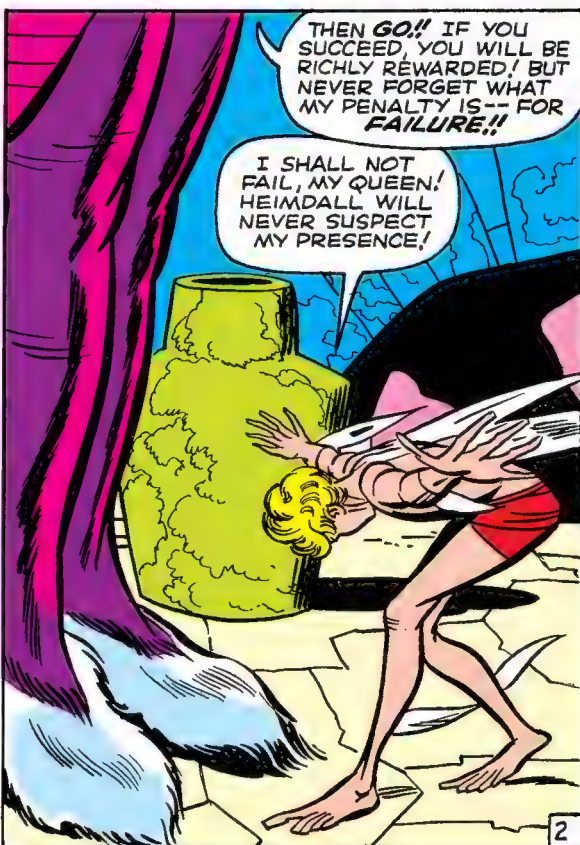
NO, KING BRIMER! THERE
IS A WAY TO GET PAST
HEIMDALL! AND I KNOW
WHAT IT IS!



x-682

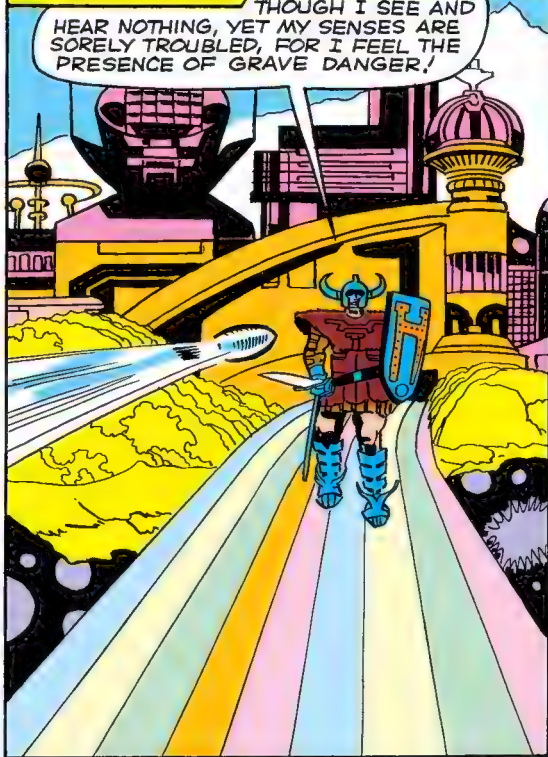
WRITTEN BY.....STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATED BY... JACK KIRBY

INKING...GEO. BELL LETTERING...ART SIMEK



A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE FABLED RAINBOW BRIDGE, THE ONLY ENTRANCE TO LEGENDARY ASGARD, WHERE STANDS THE LOYAL HEIMDALL...

THOUGH I SEE AND HEAR NOTHING, YET MY SENSES ARE SORELY TROUBLED, FOR I FEEL THE PRESENCE OF GRAVE DANGER!



THEN, SUDDENLY, FOR NO APPARENT REASON, THE GALLANT GUARDIAN SWINGS HIS MIGHTY SWORD AT WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE EMPTY AIR-- SWINGS, AND TOUCHES NOTHING!

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?? AM I TAKING LEAVE OF MY SENSES??? WHAT POSSESSES ME TO 'FLAY THE EMPTY AIR' WITH USELESS GESTURES!



NEVER HAVE I FELT THIS WAY BEFORE!! NEVER SO UNCERTAIN-- SO TROUBLED!! HAVE I BEEN AT MY POST TOO LONG?? CAN IT BE THAT I AM NO LONGER WORTHY OF GUARDING THE ALL-IMPORTANT RAINBOW BRIDGE??



AND, WITHIN THE TOWERING GATES OF ASGARD ITSELF...





HOW EASY IT IS FOR ME TO COUNT THE WARRIORS ODIN HAS UNDER HIS COMMAND --TO LEARN THEIR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES!!



I CAN EVEN ENTER THE ROYAL CHAMBER OF ODIN HIMSELF-- AND ALL BECAUSE THE USELESS HEIMDALL FAILED TO STOP ME!!

NOBLE ODIN, I BRING WORD FROM HEIMDALL! HE SAYS WE MUST BE ALERT! THOUGH HE HAS SEEN NOTHING, HE SUSPECTS GREAT DANGER IS NEAR US!

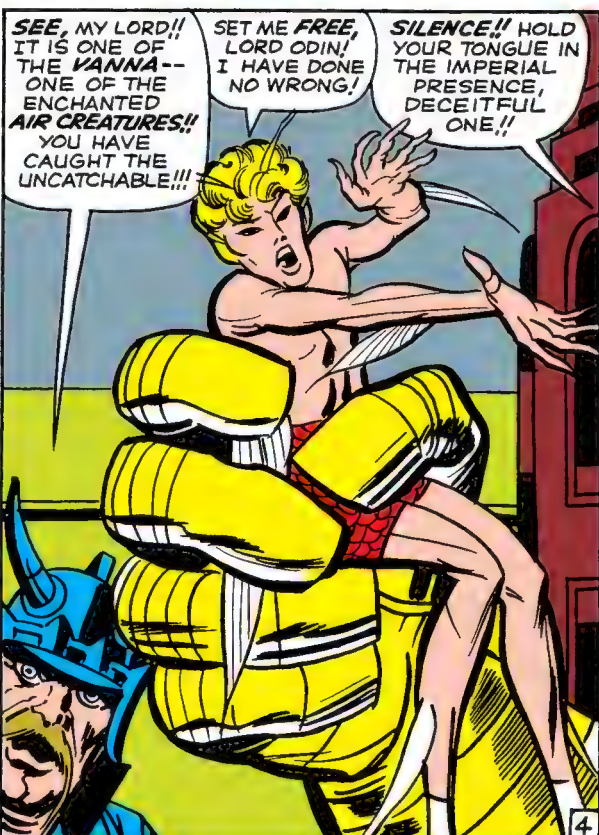
SO SPEAKS TRUST-WORTHY HEIMDALL?? THEN WE MUST HEED HIS WORDS!!



LET ALL BE SILENT! LET ALL BE MOTIONLESS! AS LORD OF ASGARD, MY POWERS ARE SUPREME! I SHALL EXERT THEM TO THEIR FULLEST!!

SOFTLY! SOFTLY! HEIMDALL SPOKE THE TRUTH! THERE IS A PRESENCE HERE! AND IN THE NAME OF ASGARD -- I COMMAND IT TO SHOW ITSELF!! ODIN MUST BE OBEYED!!

I MUST FLEE-- BUT-- I CANNOT!!



SEE, MY LORD!! IT IS ONE OF THE VANNA-- ONE OF THE ENCHANTED AIR CREATURES!! YOU HAVE CAUGHT THE UNCATCHABLE!!!

SET ME FREE, LORD ODIN, I HAVE DONE NO WRONG!

SILENCE!! HOLD YOUR TONGUE IN THE IMPERIAL PRESENCE, DECEITFUL ONE!!

LATER, HEIMDALL IS SUMMONED TO THE THRONE ROOM OF ODIN --

YOU HAVE CAPTURED A VANNA, MY LORD! THEN TRULY HAVE I FAILED MY TRUST!! FOR HE ENTERED ASGARD WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE!

THAT'S RIGHT, GREAT ODIN! PUNISH HEIMDALL -- NOT ME! I DID YOU A FAVOR! I PROVED HE IS NOT WORTHY TO GUARD THE RAINBOW BRIDGE!



YOU SHALL BE PUNISHED, FALSE-TONGUED ONE! ODIN CAN SEE THRU YOUR WEB OF LIES! BUT, MY DEALINGS WITH YOU CAN WAIT! FIRST, I MUST GIVE HEIMDALL HIS DUE...

DO WITH ME AS YOU WISH, NOBLE LORD! BUT NO PUNISHMENT YOU METE OUT TO ME CAN BE AS PAINFUL AS THE REGRET I FEEL IN MY HEART FOR MY FAILURE!

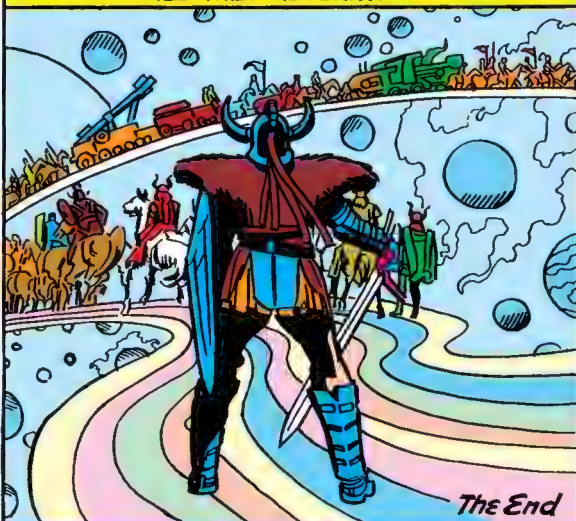


RISE, GALLANT HEIMDALL! YOU HAVE NOT FAILED! SO LOYAL IS YOUR HEART, THAT YOU SENSED THE EVIL VANNA ALTHOUGH YOU COULD NOT SEE HIM! AND SO HONORABLE IS YOUR SOUL THAT YOU REPORTED YOUR FEARS TO ME, ALTHOUGH YOU KNEW OTHERS MIGHT SCORN YOU FOR FEARING THE UNSEEN!

RETURN TO YOUR POST, HEIMDALL, AND KNOW THAT YOU HOLD A PLACE IN THE HEART OF ODIN SECOND ONLY TO THOR HIMSELF!



AND, AS THE MIGHTY LEGIONS OF ODIN SET OUT ACROSS THE RAINBOW BRIDGE ON THEIR JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF THE FROST GIANTS, THEY ARE SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HEIMDALL REMAINS! HEIMDALL, WHOSE AWESOME PRESENCE GUARANTEES THAT ASGARD SHALL STILL BE SAFE TILL THEY RETURN!!



The End

PERSONAL NOTE: STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY WANT TO THANK THE COUNTLESS READERS WHO HAVE FLOODED THEM WITH LETTERS IN PRAISE OF TALES OF ASGARD! WE APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND PROMISE TO CONTINUE WITH TALES SUCH AS THESE!! TALES FOUND ONLY WITHIN THE PAGES OF THE MIGHTY THOR!!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP 12¢

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY WITH



IND

THE
MIGHTY

THOR

106
JULY

HOW CAN THOR
HOPE TO DEFEAT
MR. HYDE
AND
THE COBRA
AFTER THEY'VE
TAKEN HIS MIGHTY
HAMMER FROM HIM?
?

THE
THUNDER
GOD
STRIKES
BACK!



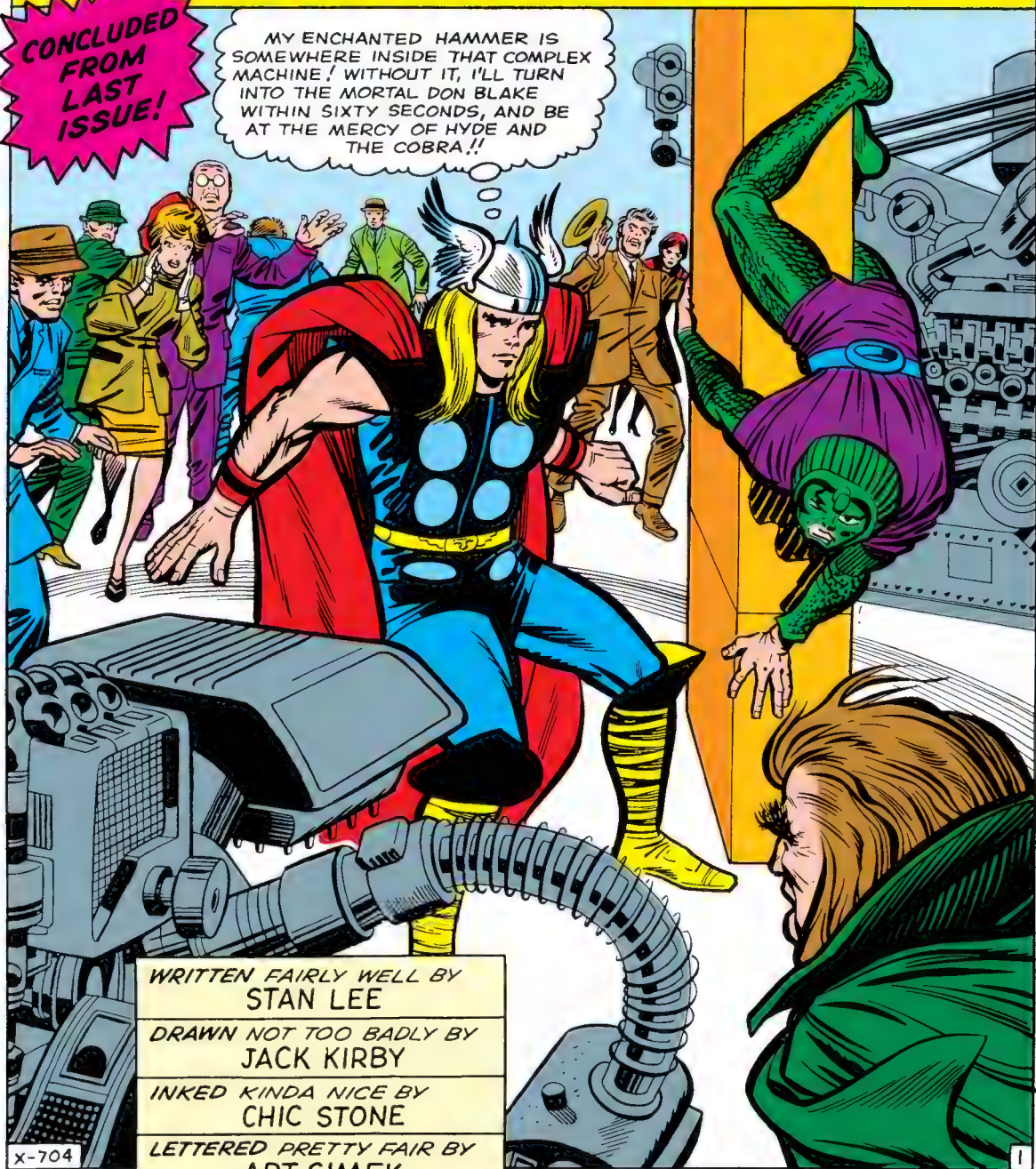
OUR PLEDGE TO YOU:
IF YOU DON'T LIKE
THIS EPIC BATTLE...
...YOU MIGHT ENJOY
"MILLIE the MODEL!"

THE MIGHTY **THOR**™

THE COBRA and MR. HYDE FEEL THOR'S MIGHTY RAGE, WHEN "THE THUNDER GOD STRIKES BACK!"™

CONCLUDED
FROM
LAST
ISSUE!

MY ENCHANTED HAMMER IS
SOMEWHERE INSIDE THAT COMPLEX
MACHINE! WITHOUT IT, I'LL TURN
INTO THE MORTAL DON BLAKE
WITHIN SIXTY SECONDS, AND BE
AT THE MERCY OF HYDE AND
THE COBRA!!



WRITTEN FAIRLY WELL BY
STAN LEE

DRAWN NOT TOO BADLY BY
JACK KIRBY

INKED KINDA NICE BY
CHIC STONE

LETTERED PRETTY FAIR BY
ART SIMEK

EDITOR'S NOTE: IF YOU MISSED THE PRECEDING ISSUE OF **THE MIGHTY THOR**, SHAME ON YOU! NOW, OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF OUR HEARTS, WE PRESENT A BRIEF SUMMARY TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE-- BUT DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!!

LITTLE DREAMING THAT **MR. HYDE** AND **THE COBRA** WERE HEADING HIS WAY, DR. DON BLAKE LOCKED HIS MYSTICAL CANE INSIDE A STEEL CABINET IN HIS OFFICE...

WITHOUT MY CANE, I CANNOT TURN INTO **THOR** AGAIN. PERHAPS I CAN LEARN TO GIVE UP MY OTHER IDENTITY FOREVER!

FOR, ONLY BY FORSAKING MY ROLE AS THUNDER GOD WILL I BE ABLE TO MARRY JANE FOSTER, THE GIRL I LOVE!



BUT, AFTER BEING ATTACKED BY THE TWO SUPER-MENACES, AND FINDING JANE'S LIFE AT STAKE, DON BLAKE **HAS** TO REGAIN HIS WALKING STICK AGAIN...

IF YOU VALUE THIS FEMALE'S LIFE, TELL US HOW TO FIND **THOR**!

VERY WELL! BREAK OPEN THAT CABINET AND TAKE THE CANE YOU'LL FIND INSIDE!



THEN, TELLING THE DEADLY DUO TO STOMP THE CANE ONCE UPON THE FLOOR, AND TO WATCH THE WINDOW FOR THE ARRIVAL OF **THOR**, THE LAME DOCTOR HOLDS HIS BREATH --- WAITING FOR THE IMPACT!!

AS SOON AS THE CANE IS STRUCK, I'LL TURN INTO **THOR**!

AT THAT INSTANT, THE CANE WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO MY **HAMMER**, AND FLY TO MY HAND!



HE STRUCK IT!! NOW, I PRAY IT WILL ALL HAPPEN SO FAST, THEY WON'T REALIZE THAT BLAKE AND **THOR** ARE ONE AND THE SAME!!!



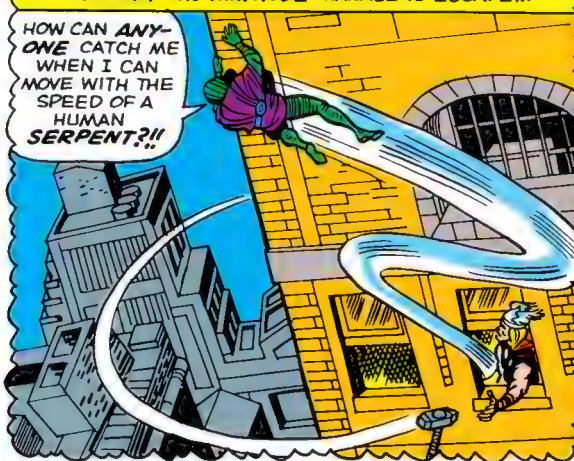
TURN AND FACE ME, I AM THE ONE YOU SEEK!!

BLAKE DECEIVED YOU! HE SUMMONED ME AND THEN FLED WHILE YOU ALL WERE FACING THE WINDOW!!



THE THUNDER GOD'S DESPERATE PLAN SUCCEEDED! BUT, EVEN MIGHTY **THOR** COULD NOT BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE, AND, MOVING WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED, THE **COBRA** AND **MR. HYDE** MANAGE TO ESCAPE...

HOW CAN **ANY-ONE** CATCH ME WHEN I CAN MOVE WITH THE SPEED OF A HUMAN SERPENT?!!

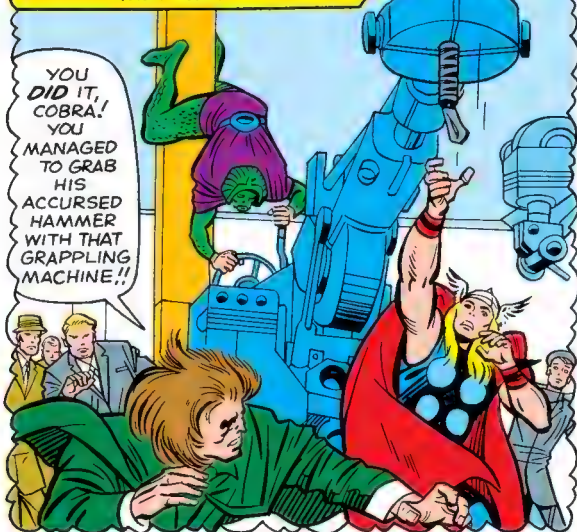


ALTHOUGH **HYDE** IS SLOWER, HIS FLYING FOE **ALLOWS** HIM TO KEEP GOING...

MR. HYDE IS UP TO SOMETHING! IF I GIVE HIM ENOUGH ROPE, HE MAY LEAD ME TO THE **COBRA**!!



FINALLY, THE TRAIL LEADS TO A HEAVY-DUTY MACHINE EXHIBIT AT NEW YORK'S COLOSSEUM WHERE THE COBRA AND HYDE SPRING THEIR TRAP--



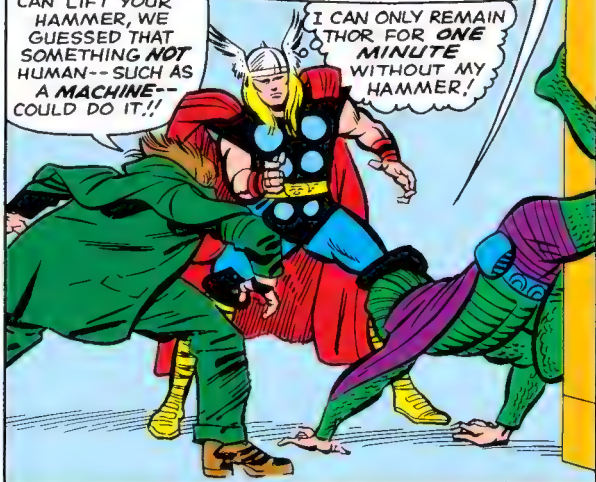
YOU DID IT, COBRA! YOU MANAGED TO GRAB HIS ACCURSED HAMMER WITH THAT GRAPPLING MACHINE!!

AND SO WE RETURN TO THE PRESENT-- AND TO THOR'S DESPERATE PLIGHT...

OUR GAMBLE PAID OFF! EVEN THOUGH NOTHING HUMAN CAN LIFT YOUR HAMMER, WE GUESSED THAT SOMETHING NOT HUMAN-- SUCH AS A MACHINE-- COULD DO IT!!

AND NOW YOU MUST FACE US-- WITHOUT YOUR GREATEST WEAPON! THIS TIME, THUNDER GOD, WE SHALL BE THE VICTORS!!

I CAN ONLY REMAIN THOR FOR ONE MINUTE WITHOUT MY HAMMER!



SO I HAVEN'T A SECOND TO SPARE!!

EVEN WITHOUT MY HAMMER, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE POWER OF THOR???

POWER WHICH ENABLES ME TO LIFT A SECTION OF THIS STEEL FLOORING AS THOUGH IT'S MADE OF PAPER!



LOOK OUT!! HE'S FLINGING US AWAY LIKE TOYS!!

WHY DIDN'T YOU GRAB HIM WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE??!



THAT WILL GIVE ME THE BREATHING SPACE I NEED! NOW TO LOSE MYSELF IN THE CROWD!!

ONLY SECONDS TO GO! BUT WHEN I CHANGE TO BLAKE AGAIN-- NONE MUST SEE ME!



ON THE VERGE OF PANIC BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY'VE WITNESSED, THE MILLING CROWD SHOVS IN ALL DIRECTIONS, TRYING TO FLEE THE HUGE BUILDING! AND, IN THE TUMULT AND CONFUSION, THOR MANAGES TO HIDE BEHIND THE SEA OF JOSTLING BODIES!!



GANG-WAY!

LET ME OUT OF HERE!

SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE!

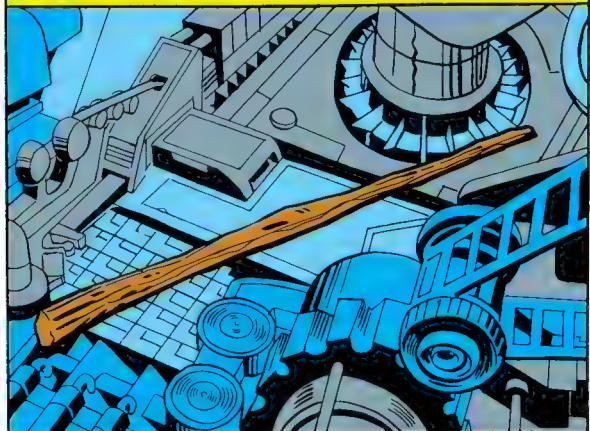
SO INTENT UPON ESCAPE IS THE MILLING THROG, THAT NONE STOP TO OBSERVE THE BLINDING PHENOMENON THAT OCCURS IN THEIR MIDST--!



AND, SECONDS LATER, NO ONE NOTICES ONE **NEW** FACE IN THE CROWD...THE FACE OF DON BLAKE!



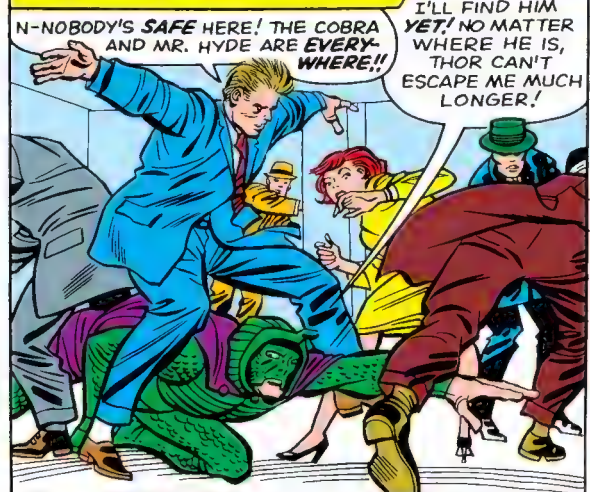
MEANTIME, WITHIN THE GIANT MACHINE, THOR'S HAMMER HAS TURNED BACK TO A SIMPLE WALKING STICK ONCE MORE, AS IT SILENTLY LIES NEXT TO A VAST COMPLEX OF COGS, AND GEARS-- SEPARATED FROM ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER BY INCHES OF POWERFUL STEEL SHIELDING!!



AND, WITHIN THE EXHIBITION HALL, THE SEARCH FOR THOR CONTINUES--!!

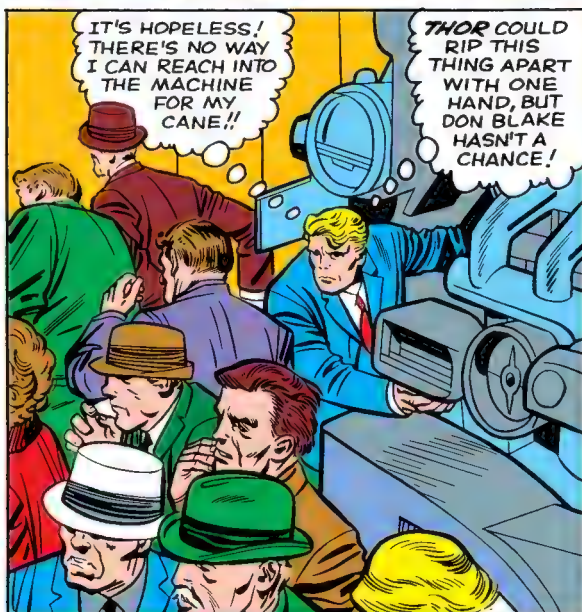
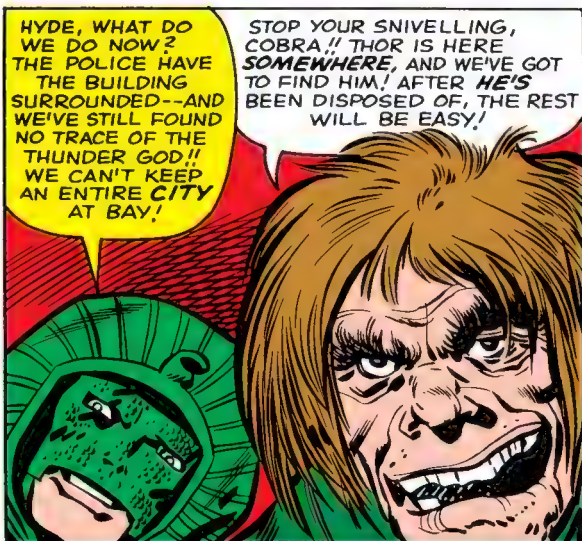
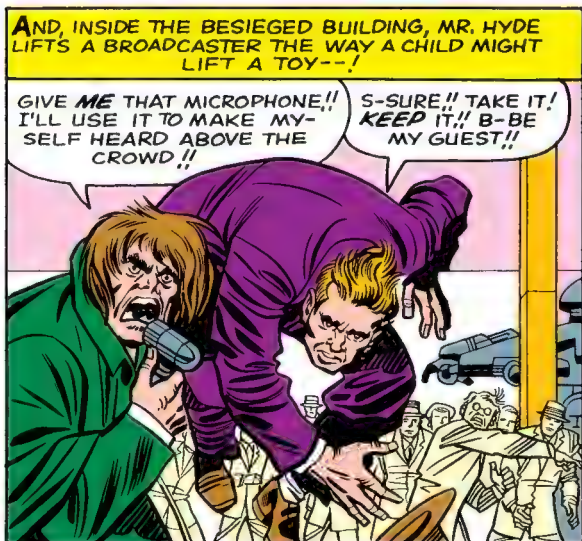
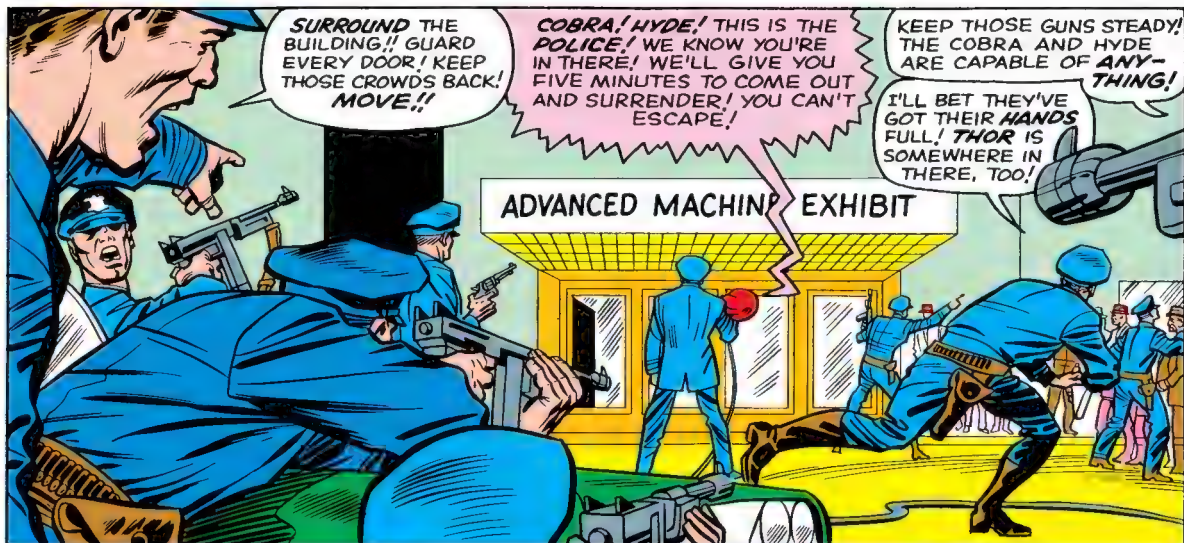


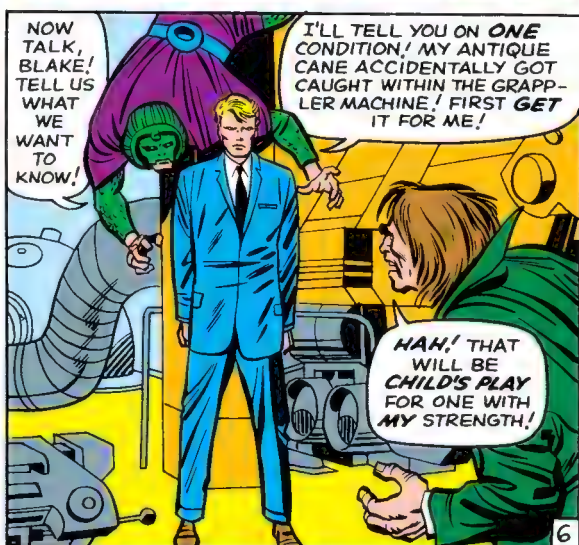
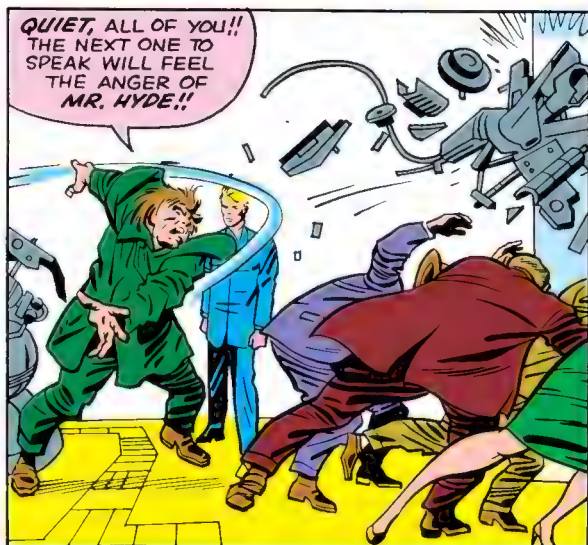
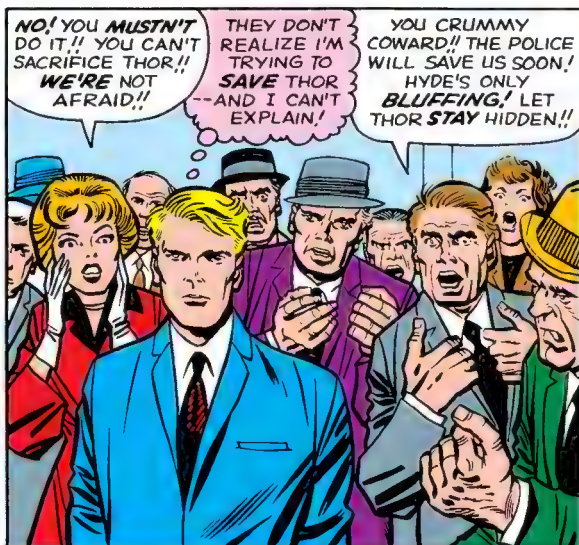
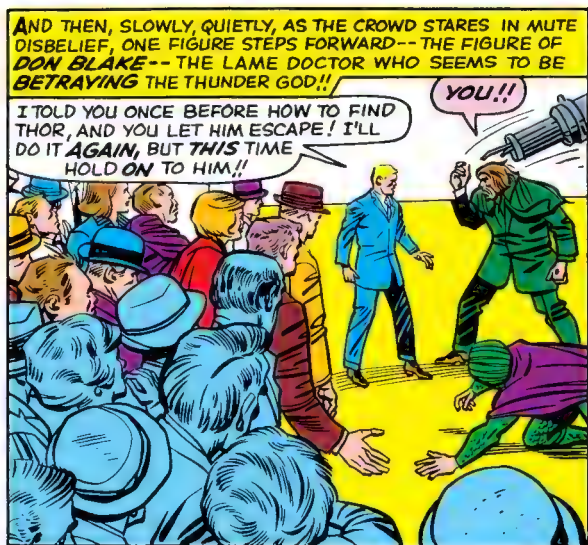
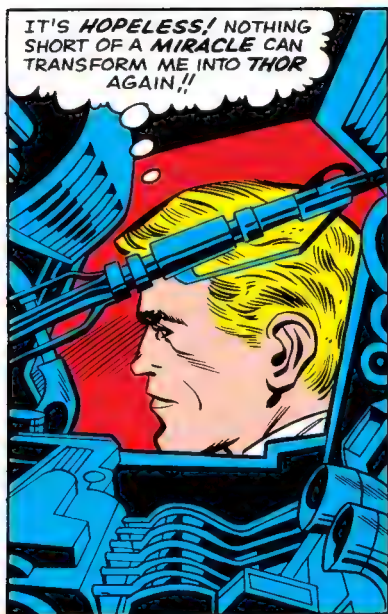
AND, IN HIS OWN SERPENTINE WAY, THE COBRA ALSO SEARCHES FOR HIS ELUSIVE ENEMY--!

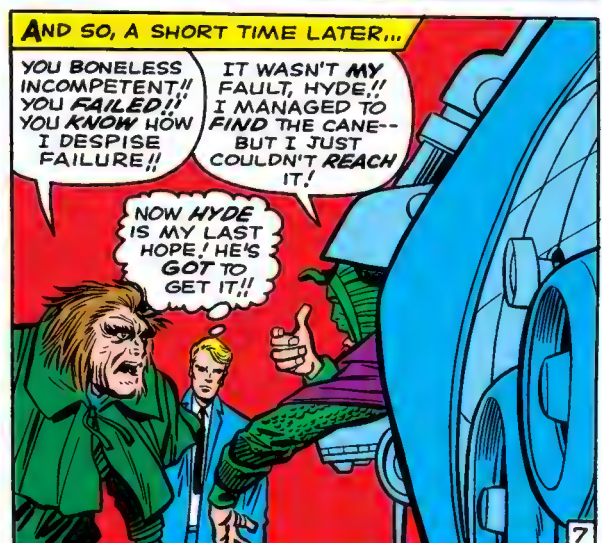
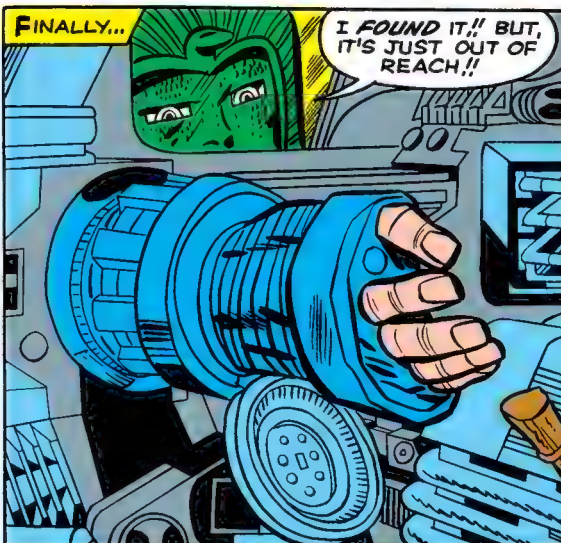
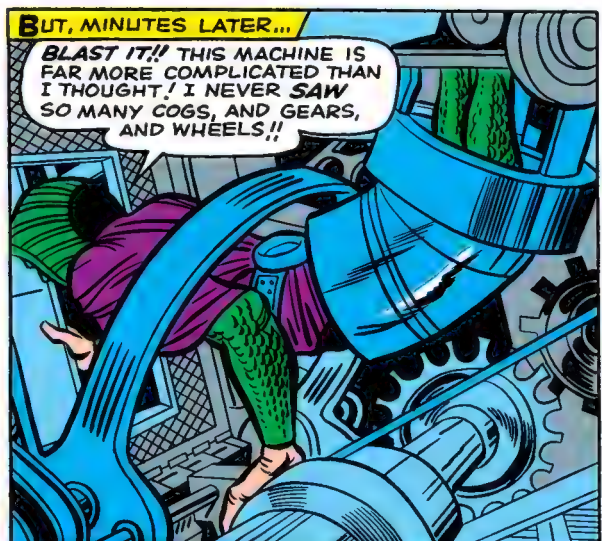
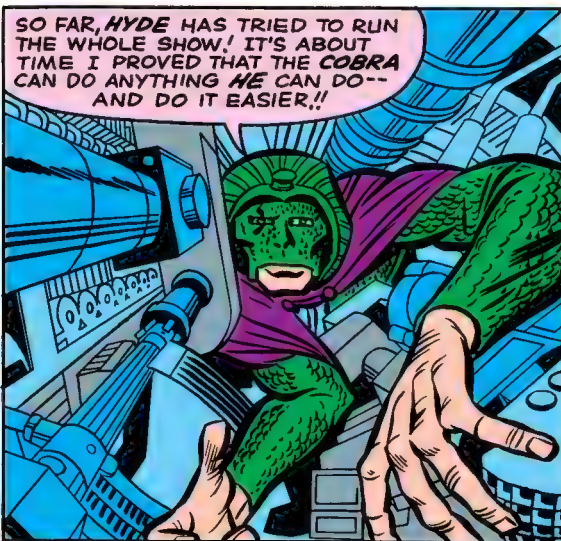
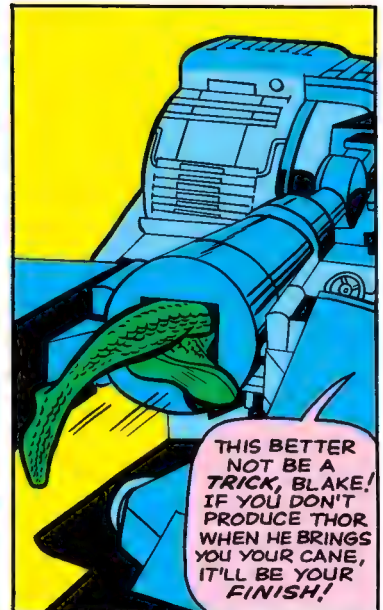
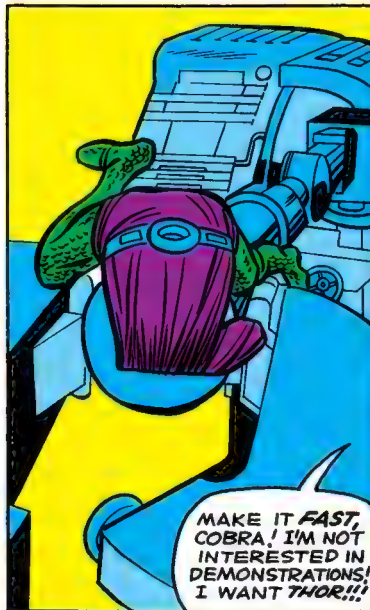


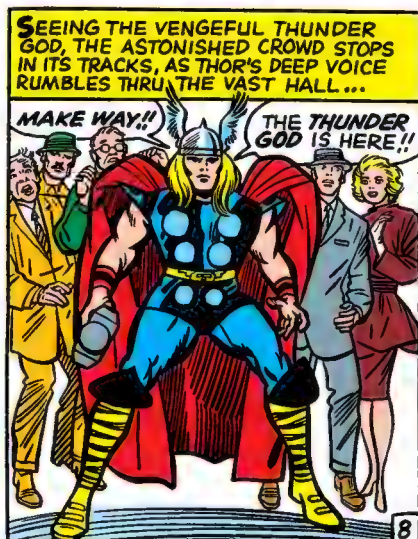
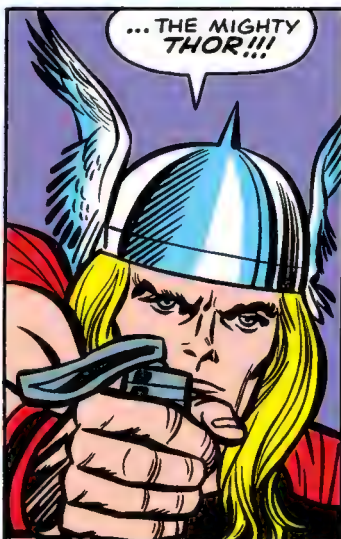
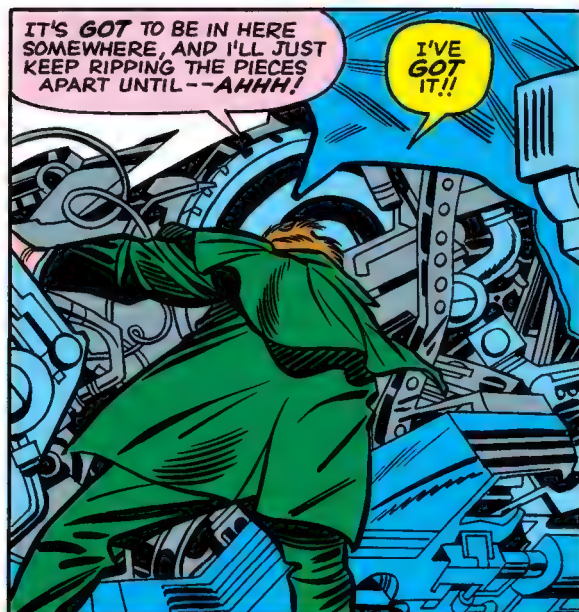
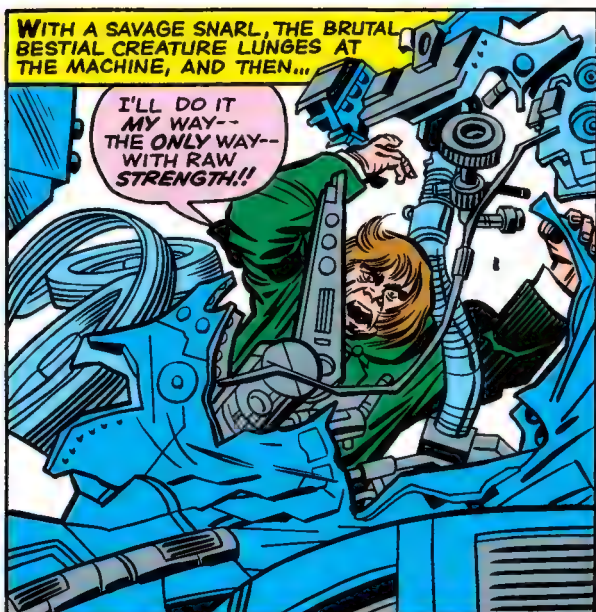
MEANTIME, LEARNING OF THE UNCANNY EVENTS TAKING PLACE AT THE MACHINERY SHOW, HEAVILY-ARMED UNITS OF THE POLICE RIOT SQUAD RACE TO THE SCENE.

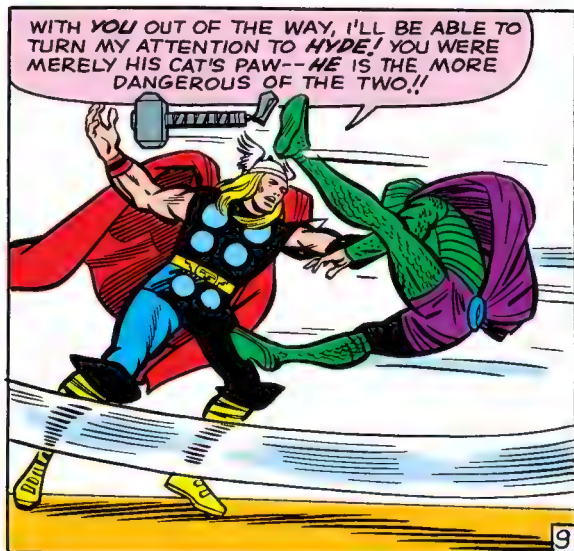
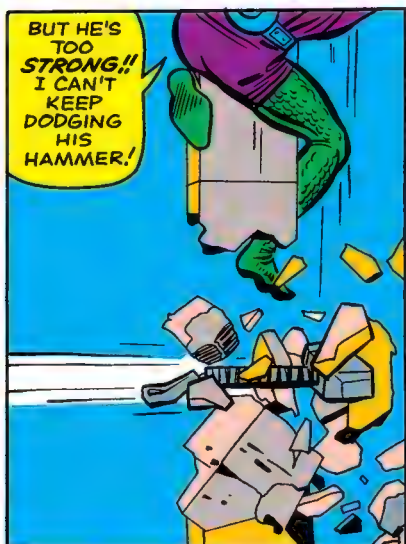
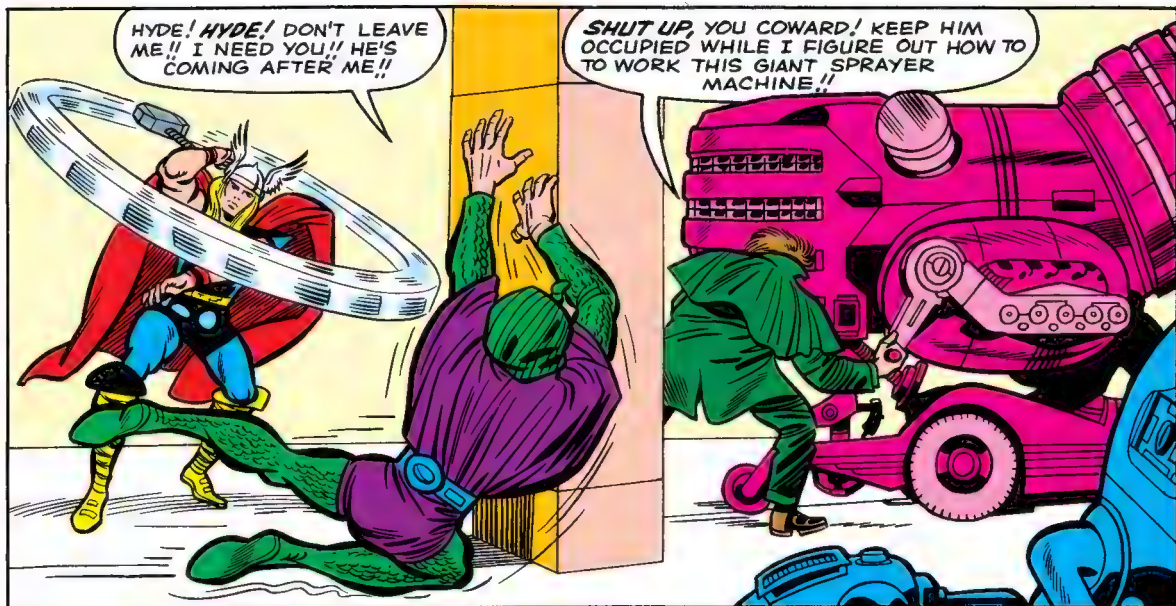








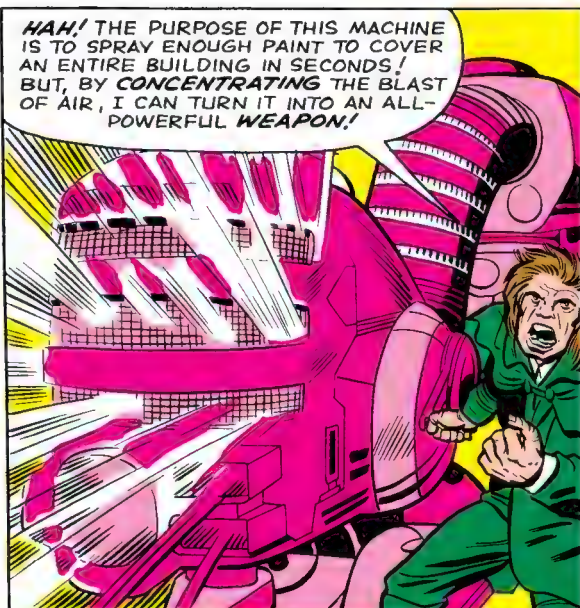




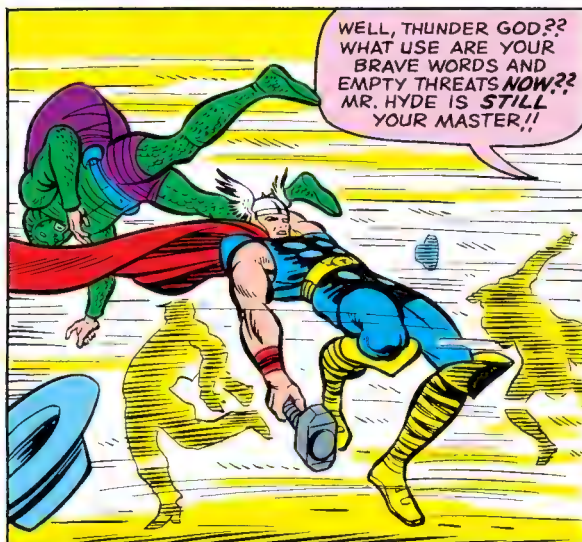


THOR--LOOK OUT! MR. HYDE HAS MANAGED TO START THE GIANT SPRAYER!! IT CAN BUILD UP ENOUGH AIR PRESSURE TO DEMOLISH A STONE WALL!!

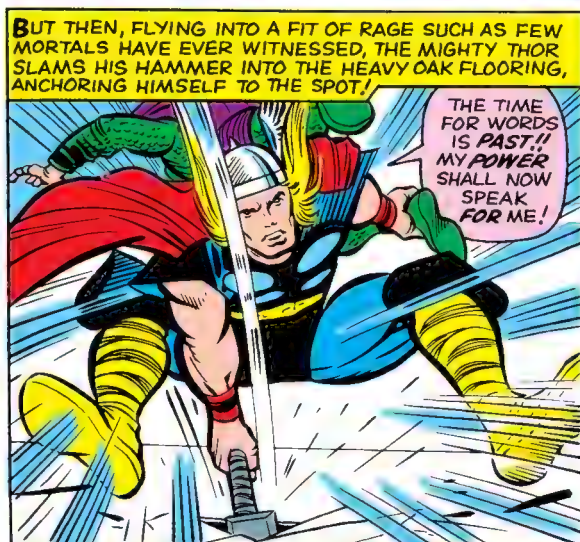
EVERYONE TAKE COVER!! NO MERE MACHINE, NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL, SHALL DEFEAT ME AGAIN!!



HAA! THE PURPOSE OF THIS MACHINE IS TO SPRAY ENOUGH PAINT TO COVER AN ENTIRE BUILDING IN SECONDS! BUT, BY CONCENTRATING THE BLAST OF AIR, I CAN TURN IT INTO AN ALL-POWERFUL WEAPON!

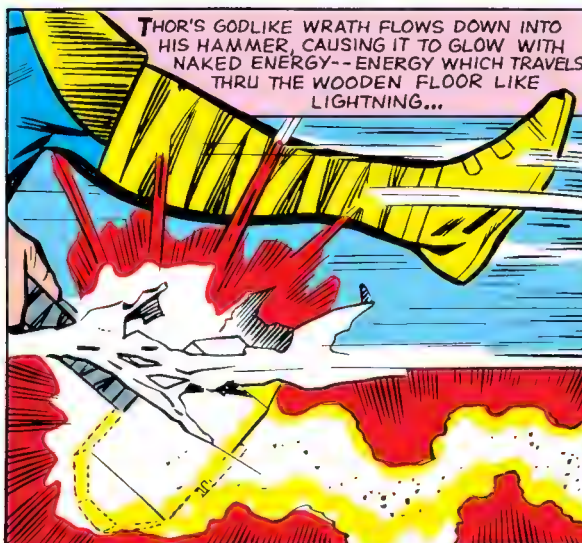


WELL, THUNDER GOD?? WHAT USE ARE YOUR BRAVE WORDS AND EMPTY THREATS NOW?? MR. HYDE IS STILL YOUR MASTER!!

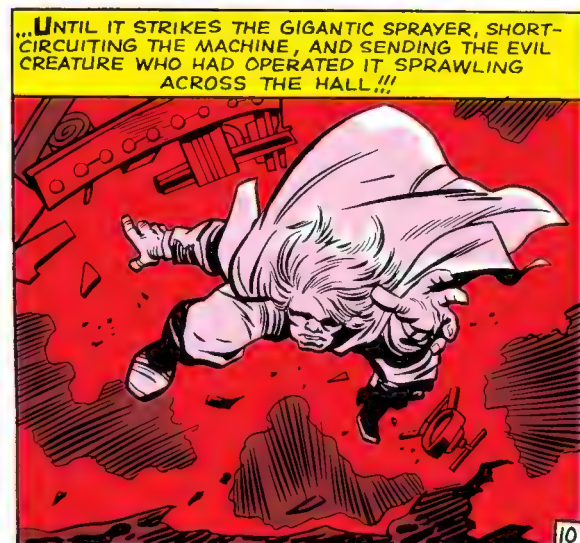


BUT THEN, FLYING INTO A FIT OF RAGE SUCH AS FEW MORTALS HAVE EVER WITNESSED, THE MIGHTY THOR SLAMS HIS HAMMER INTO THE HEAVY OAK FLOORING, ANCHORING HIMSELF TO THE SPOT!

THE TIME FOR WORDS IS PAST!! MY POWER SHALL NOW SPEAK FOR ME!

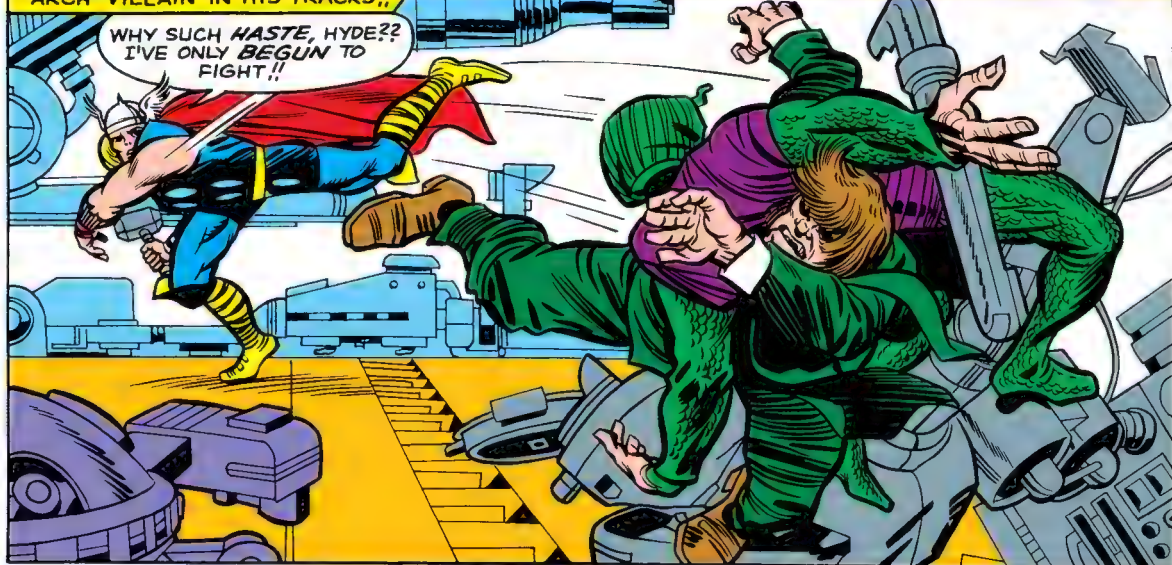


THOR'S GODLIKE WRATH FLOWS DOWN INTO HIS HAMMER, CAUSING IT TO GLOW WITH NAKED ENERGY--ENERGY WHICH TRAVELS THRU THE WOODEN FLOOR LIKE LIGHTNING...



...UNTIL IT STRIKES THE GIGANTIC SPRAYER, SHORT-CIRCUITING THE MACHINE, AND SENDING THE EVIL CREATURE WHO HAD OPERATED IT SPRAWLING ACROSS THE HALL!!!

THEN, SEIZING THE COBRA AGAIN, THOR HURLS HIM INTO THE FLEEING MR. HYDE, STOPPING THE ARCH-VILLAIN IN HIS TRACKS!!



WHY SUCH *HASTE*, HYDE??
I'VE ONLY *BEGUN* TO
FIGHT!!

WHILE OUTSIDE THE EXHIBITION HALL...

THE FIVE MINUTES ARE
UP, MEN!! BREAK INTO
THE HALL!!

LET'S GO!!



THE SOUND OF
SPLINTERING
TIMBERS!! THE
POLICE ARE
CRASHING IN!

THOR IS FAR STRONGER
THAN I DREAMED!! I'VE
NO CHANCE ALONE AGAINST
HIM! I'VE GOT TO *ESCAPE*--
BEFORE THE POLICE REACH
ME!!



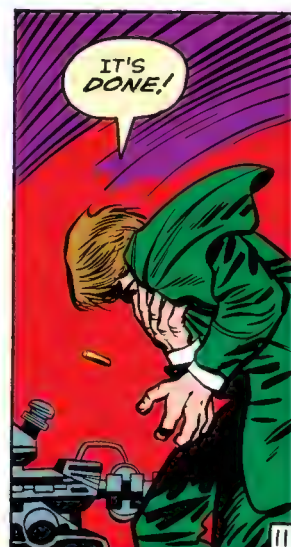
NOW-- WHILE THOR'S HEAD IS TURNED! HE
DOESN'T SUSPECT I HAVE *ANOTHER* IDENTITY!
IF ONLY I CAN DRINK MY PRECIOUS POTION
IN TIME!!



ONE MORE
SECOND IS
ALL I
NEED!!



IT'S
DONE!



BY THE TIME THOR REACHES THE SPOT, MR. HYDE IS GONE-- REPLACED BY THE ORDINARY-LOOKING FIGURE OF CALVIN ZABO...

GOOD! THE COBRA SLOWED HIM DOWN JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO MAKE MY TRANSFORMATION UNSEEN!

STEP ASIDE, FOLKS! LET US THRU!

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, OFFICER!! THOR CAUGHT THE COBRA! THEY'RE IN THAT DIRECTION!!

LET'S GO, BOYS! AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR MR. HYDE!

THEN, AS THE POLICE REACH THE SPOT AND TAKE OVER...

STOP SQUIRMING, COBRA! YOU'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE!

EXCEPT TO JAIL, THAT IS!

WHERE COULD HYDE HAVE DISAPPEARED TO??

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD ME! I'LL ESCAPE SOMEHOW! MR. HYDE WILL COME BACK FOR ME! YOU'LL SEE!

LET'S HOPE HE DOES! WE'VE GOT ANOTHER CELL WAITING FOR HIM!

TOO BAD, COBRA! YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE! I'M THRU WITH YOU! HOW LUCKY FOR ME THAT NO ONE, NOT EVEN THOR SUSPECTS THAT MR. HYDE IS ALSO CALVIN ZABO!!

THOR MAY THINK I'VE FLED, BUT I'M NOT FINISHED WITH HIM YET!

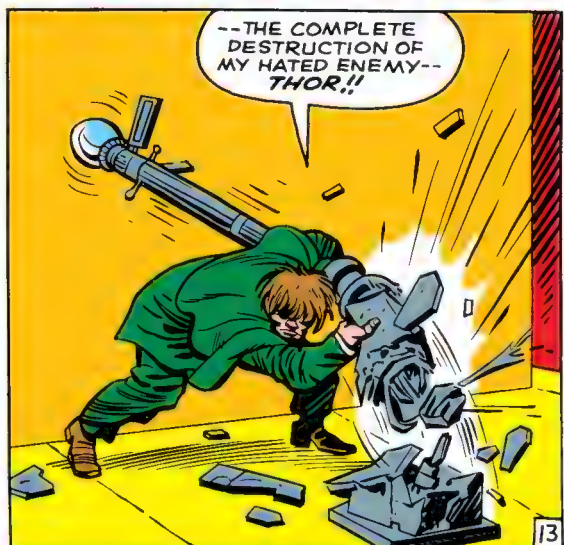
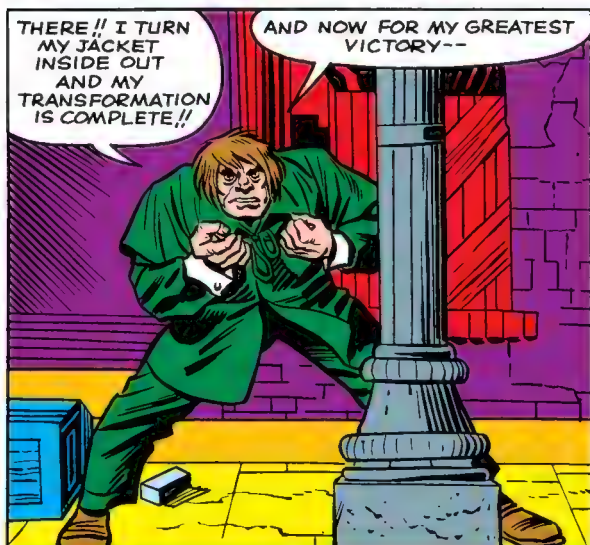
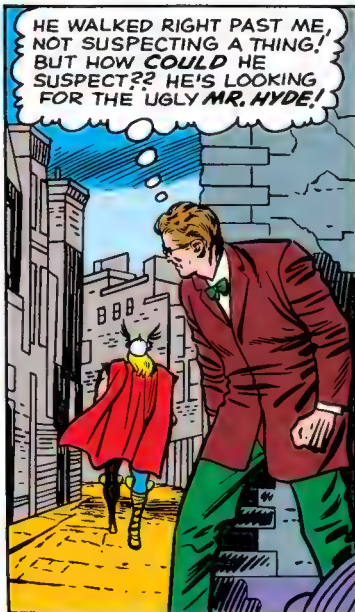
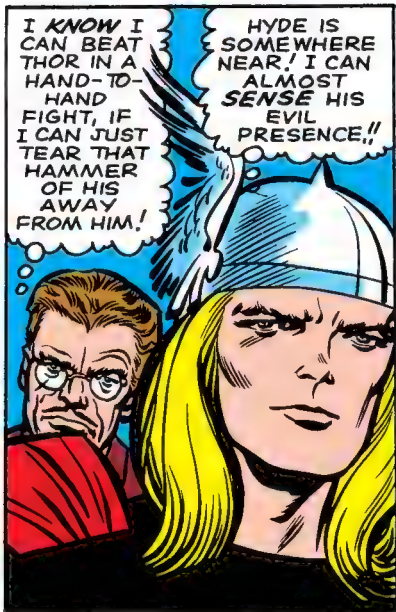
CONGRATULATIONS, THOR! YOU PUT UP A MAGNIFICENT FIGHT!

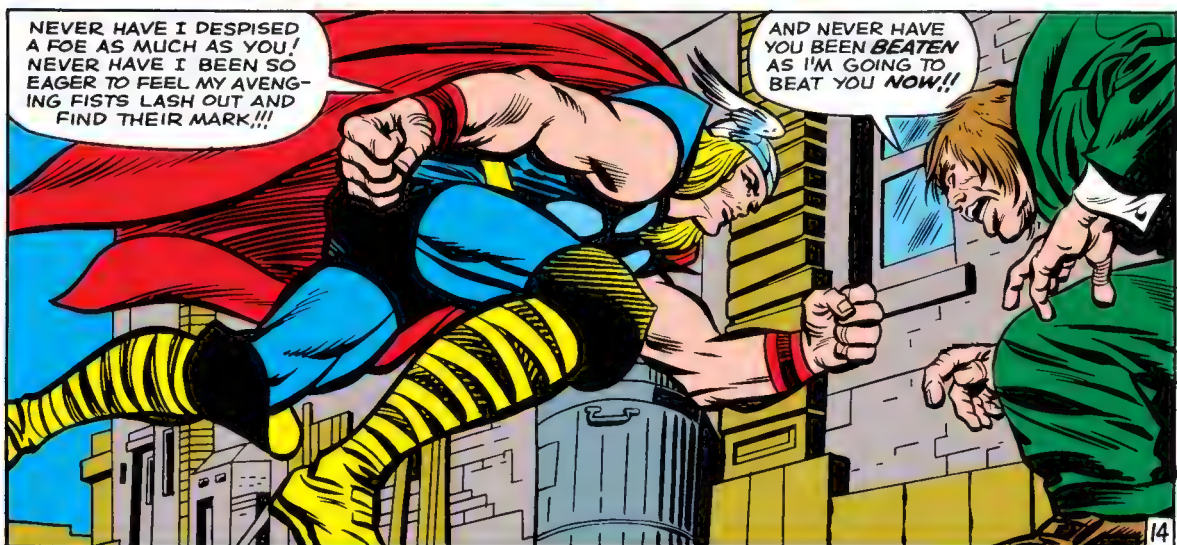
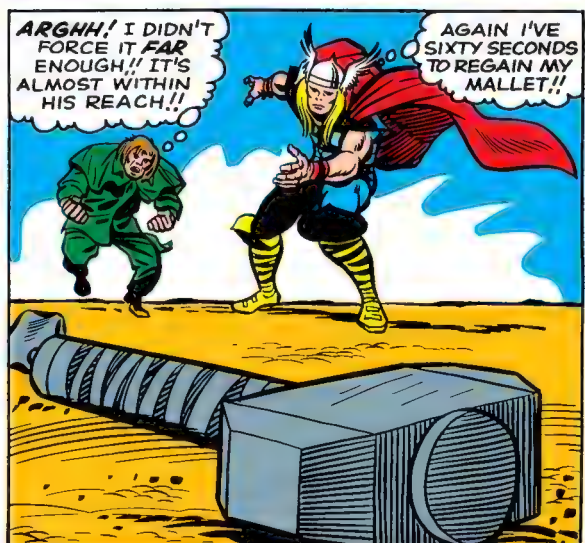
OH, WAIT TILL THE GIRLS BACK HOME HEAR THAT I WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO TOUCH THE MIGHTY THOR!!

ANY STATEMENT TO MAKE FOR THE PRESS, THOR?

NO! NONE!

I'LL FOLLOW HIM AND WAIT UNTIL I GET HIM ALONE!

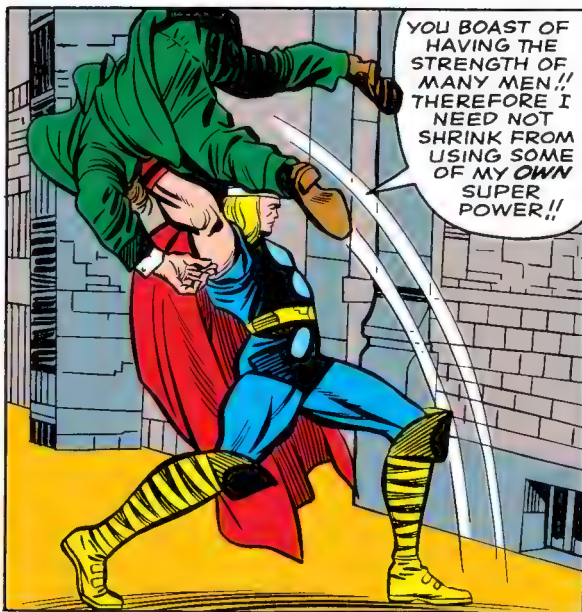




AND SO, AS THE SECONDS TICK RELENTLESSLY BY, THE TWO TITANS CLASH!!!



YOU BOAST OF HAVING THE STRENGTH OF MANY MEN!! THEREFORE I NEED NOT SHRINK FROM USING SOME OF MY OWN SUPER POWER!!



FIVE SECONDS HAVE ALREADY ELAPSED! I MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO LOSE COUNT!!



YOU CAN'T STOP HYDE WITH ONE SINGLE BLOW!!!

ALL YOU'VE DONE IS GIVEN ME A WEAPON!!



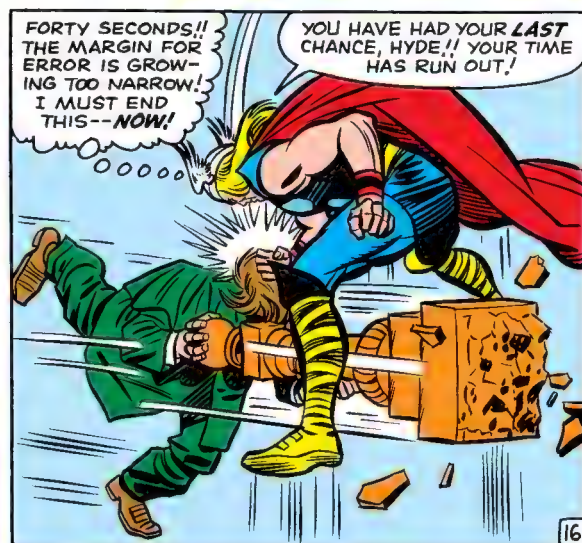
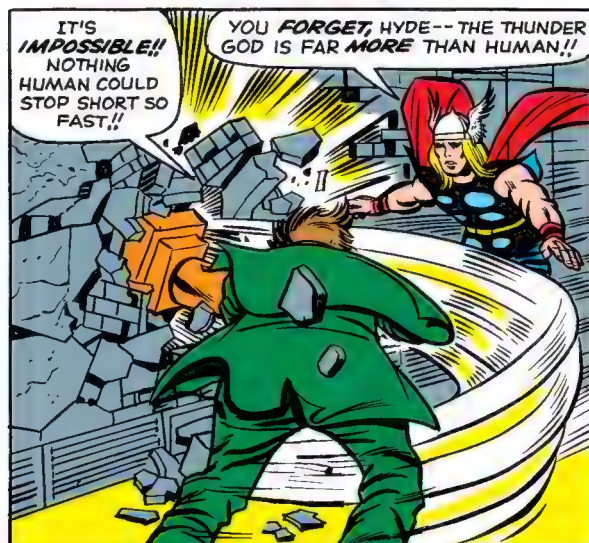
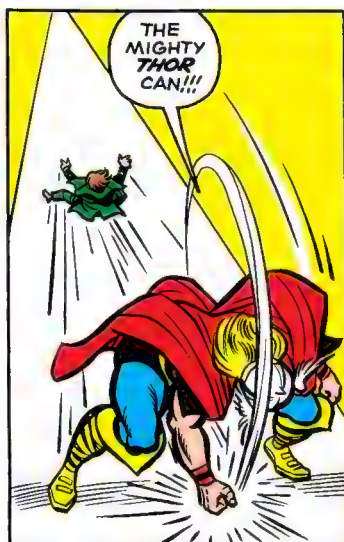
TRULY YOUR STRENGTH IS A THING TO MARVEL AT!! BUT--ONLY FOR A HUMAN!!

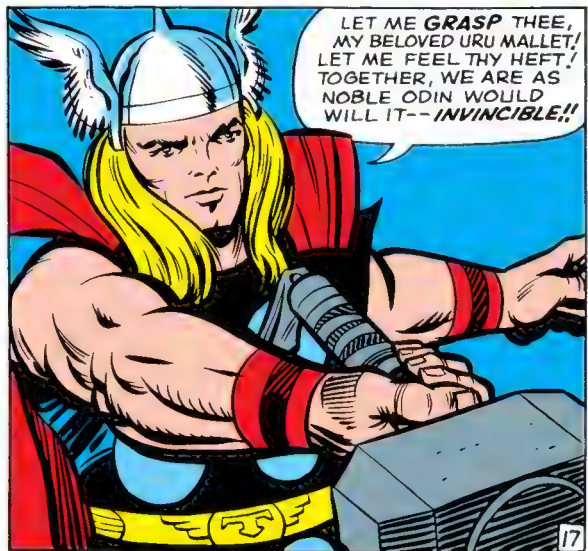
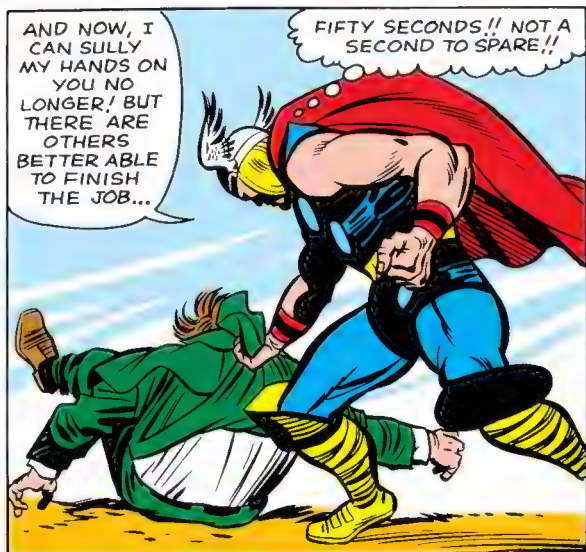
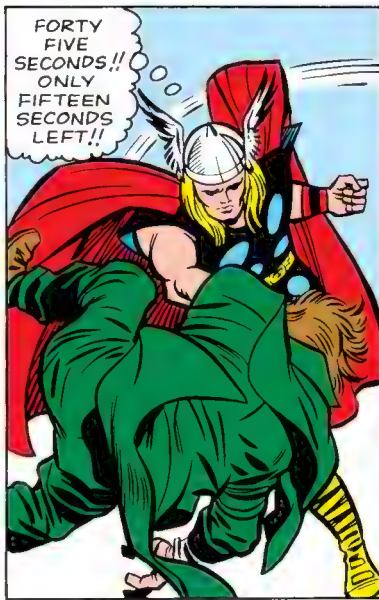


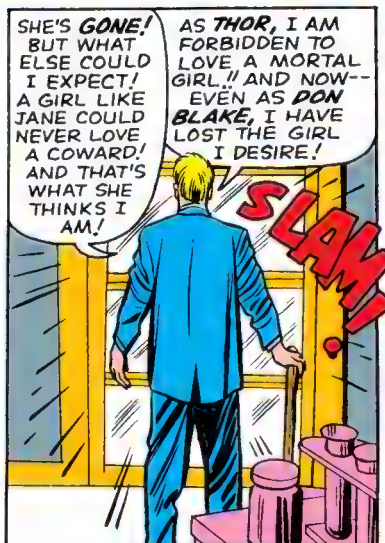
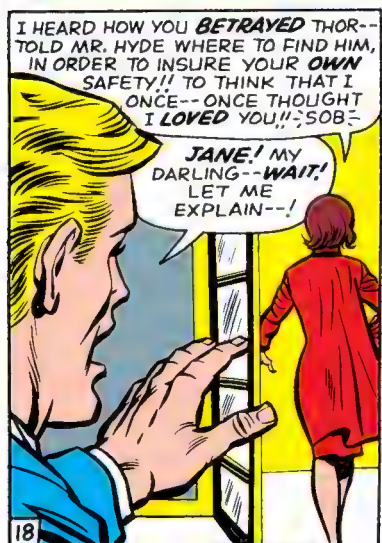
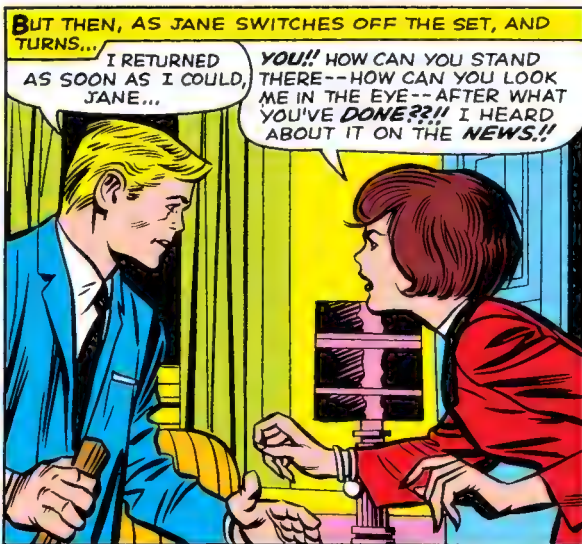
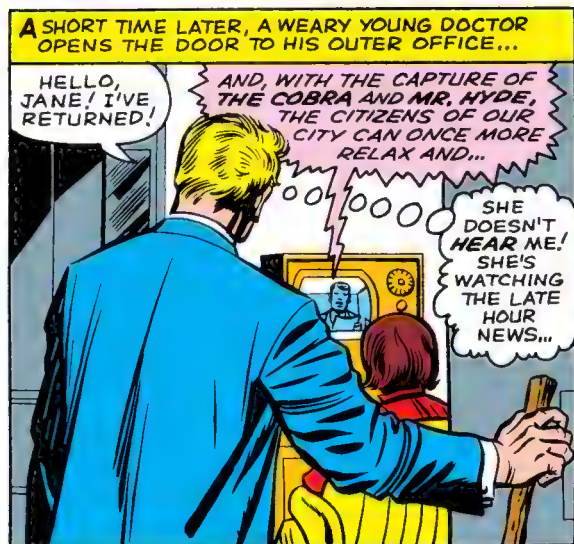
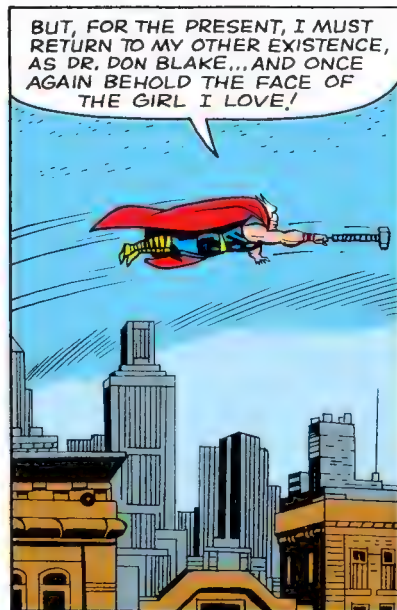
HUMAN YOU CALL ME?? I'LL SHOW YOU HOW MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN I REALLY AM!!

WHAT A PITY THAT SUCH SUPERB STRENGTH SHOULD BE HOUSED IN SO EVIL A BODY!









TALES of ASGARD

HOME OF
THE MIGHTY
NORSE GODS!

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP PROUDLY ANNOUNCES
THE START OF A NEW BIOGRAPHY IN DEPTH...

BALDER

WRITTEN WITH PASSION
BY: STAN LEE

DRAWN WITH PAGEANTRY
BY: JACK KIRBY

INKED WITH POWER
BY: VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERED WITH PRIDE
BY: ART SIMEK

"THE
BRAVE"

YOU SUMMONED
ME, SIRE?

I DID!
STEP FORWARD,
BALDER--INTO
THE PRESENCE
OF ODIN!



YESTERDAY, DURING THE FINAL BATTLE BETWEEN MY WARRIORS AND THE DEADLY STORM GIANTS, YOU DESERTED THE FIGHT WHEN WE PURSUED THEM BACK TO THEIR LAND! HAVE YOU AN EXPLANATION FOR ME, BALDER?

YES, SIRE! I SAW A BIRD FALL FROM ITS NEST, AND I TURNED TO PLACE IT BACK WITH ITS MOTHER!



WHAT??! YOU DARE GIVE ODIN SO LAME AN EXCUSE??! FOR THAT, YOU SHALL FACE THE TEST OF MORTAL DEATH!

NO, SIRE! HAVE MERCY! BALDER'S COURAGE HAS BEEN PROVED A THOUSAND-FOLD! WE BESEECH THEE--!!

STAY YOUR TONGUES, MY FRIENDS! I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO AS ODIN COMMANDS!



MY LORD-- HEAR OUR PETITION! WE BEG THEE NOT TO SLAY BRAVE BALDER!

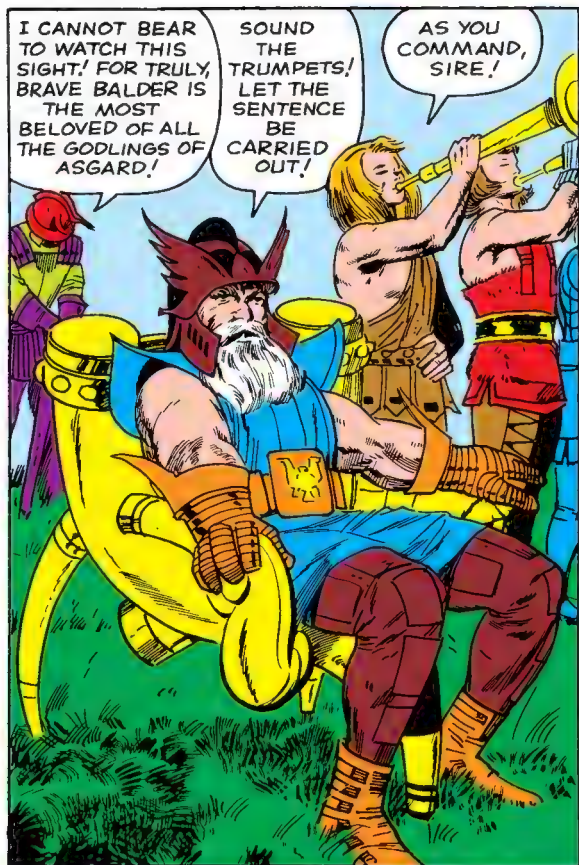
TAKE THE LIFE OF ONE OF US INSTEAD!

SILENCE! ODIN HAS SPOKEN! MY LAW MAY NOT BE DEFIED-- BY GODLING, OR MORTAL!



AS FAMED FOR HIS TERRIBLE ANGER AND SWIFT PUNISHMENT, AS HIS INSCRUTIBLE WISDOM, MIGHTY ODIN HAS BALDER BROUGHT TO THE AREA OF EXECUTION...

I STAND READY TO ACCEPT WHATEVER MY LORD ODIN DECREES!



I CANNOT BEAR TO WATCH THIS SIGHT! FOR TRULY, BRAVE BALDER IS THE MOST BELOVED OF ALL THE GODLINGS OF ASGARD!

SOUND THE TRUMPETS! LET THE SENTENCE BE CARRIED OUT!

AS YOU COMMAND, SIRE!



WITH A GRIEVING HEART, THE STEADY-ARMED TYR, MASTER ARCHER OF ASGARD, PREPARES TO CARRY OUT THE AWESOME COMMAND OF ODIN!

ONLY THE IMPERIAL COMMAND OF ODIN HIMSELF COULD MAKE ME DO THIS TRAGIC THING!

BUT, AT THE EXACT SPLIT-SECOND THAT TYR RELEASES HIS FATAL ARROW, A SHARP-EYED HAWK SWOOPS DOWN FROM THE CLOUDLESS SKY, AND...



...SEIZES THE SPEEDING ARROW IN ITS POWERFUL TALONS--MERE INCHES SHORT OF ITS UNFLINCHING TARGET!!

BRAVE BALDER HAS BEEN SAVED!!!

EVEN THE DEADLY HAWK, THAT MERCILESS BIRD OF PREY, FELT LOVE IN ITS HEART FOR NOBLE BALDER!



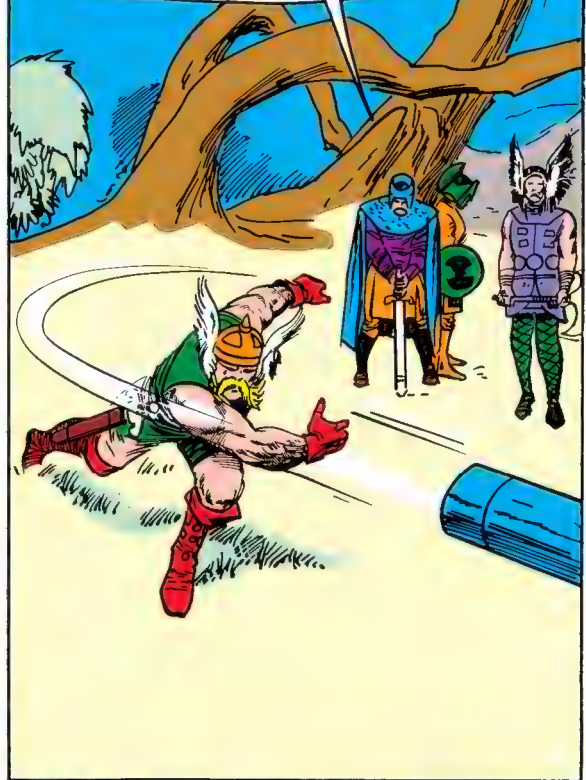
BUT THE ORDEAL OF BALDER IS NOT YET ENDED!! AT A COMMAND FROM ODIN, HIS BROTHER *HONIR*, CHAMPION SPEAR THROWER OF ASGARD, PICKS UP HIS TRUEST SHAFT...

I **COMMAND** THEE, *HONIR*!! LET YOUR WEAPON FLY STRAIGHT AND TRUE!!

I CAN DO NAUGHT BUT OBEY THE SOVEREIGN WE SERVE!



THIS IS A BLACK DAY FOR ASGARD!! NOW BALDER IS TRULY DOOMED!!



BUT AGAIN A SEEMING MIRACLE OCCURS! BEFORE THE HURLING WEAPON CAN FIND ITS MARK, A STRONG-LIMBED PLANT SHOOTS UP FROM THE GROUND IN FRONT OF THE IMMOBILE GODLING!



THE SPEAR CANNOT REACH ITS TARGET!

ONCE AGAIN BRAVE BALDER IS SAVED!!!



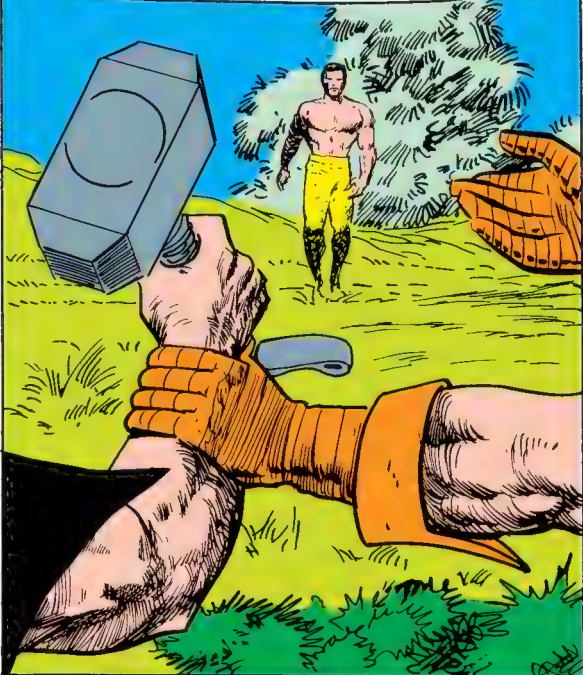
THOR, MY NOBLE SON-- SYMBOL OF ALL THAT'S BEST AMONG MAN AND GODLING--GRASP THY HAMMER!!

I CANNOT DISOBEY THEE, MY FATHER! BUT IN MY HEART I PRAY FOR ANOTHER MIRACLE TO SAVE THE COURAGEOUS BALDER!



THEN, AS THE STEEL-SINewed ARM OF MIGHTY THOR RAISES HIS INVINCIBLE HAMMER--AND AS BALDER STANDS FIRM--NEITHER FALTERING NOR FLINCHING-- THE HAND OF ODIN REACHES OUT...

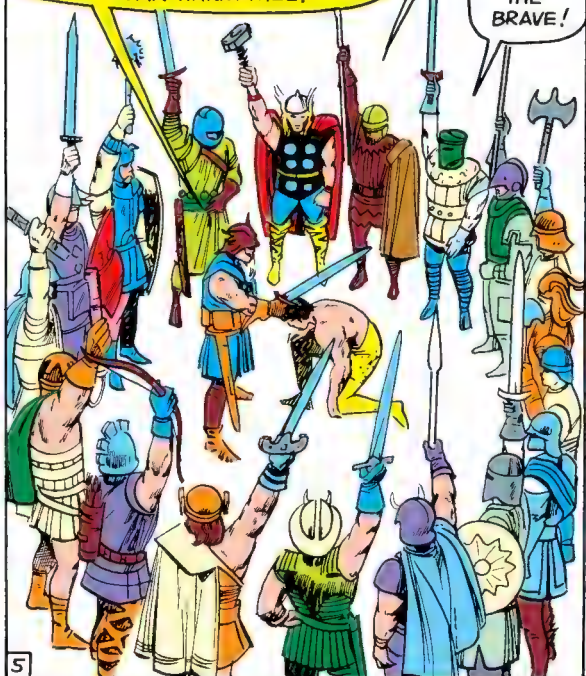
ENOUGH!! THE TEST IS ENDED!! STEP FORWARD, BALDER! STEP FORWARD AND HEED THE WORDS OF ODIN...



IT WAS I WHO SUMMONED THE HAWK --I WHO CALLED FORTH THE PLANT! FOR I HAVE A GIFT FOR THEE, BRAVE BALDER-- THE GIFT OF INVINCIBILITY! THE GIFT WHICH CAN ONLY BE WON THRU TRIAL AND TEST! FROM THIS DAY HENCE, NOTHING CAN HARM THEE!

ALL HAIL TO ODIN, WISEST OF THE WISE!

HAIL TO BALDER THE BRAVE!



NOW FOR AGES TO COME, THE BELOVED BALDER WILL BE LIVING PROOF THAT THE BRAVEST ARE THE GENTLEST! LET GODLING AND HUMAN ALIKE NEVER FORGET THAT THERE IS ONE WHO IS INVINCIBLE--AND YET, FOR ALL HIS POWER, HIS HEART FEELS LOVE FOR THE HUMBLEST AND THE WEAKEST OF CREATURES!

THIS DAY MOST OF ALL, MY FATHER, I AM PROUD TO BE THE SON OF NOBLE ODIN!



BUT, EVEN AS ACHILLES HAD HIS VULNERABLE HEEL, SO DOES BRAVE BALDER HAVE ONE POINT OF VULNERABILITY! DON'T MISS OUR SECOND EPISODE NEXT ISSUE, BROUGHT TO YOU, AS ALWAYS, IN THE MAGNIFICENT MARVEL MANNER!

THE END



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP 12¢

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY WITH

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY
IND.

THE MIGHTY THOR

107
AUG

ALSO
FEATURING:
**TALES
OF
ASGARD!**

NEW! DIFFERENT! SEEMINGLY UNBEATABLE!
YOU AND THOR ARE ABOUT TO MEET!

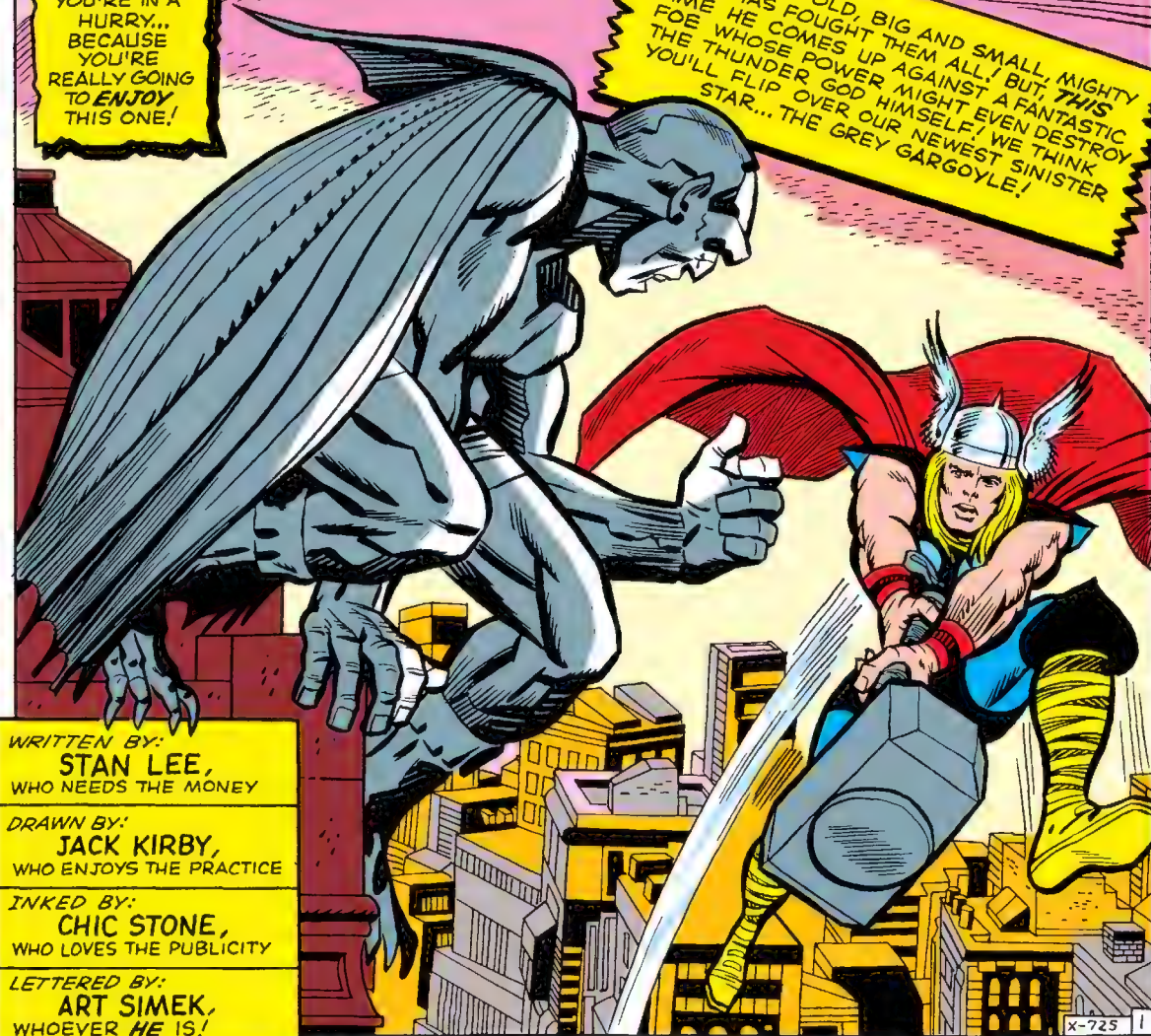
"The GREY GARGOYLE!"



THE MIGHTY THOR "WHEN THE GREY GARGOYLE STRIKES!"

SETTLE BACK IN A COZY COMFORTABLE CHAIR... BE SURE YOU WON'T BE INTERRUPTED FOR A WHILE... AND PLEASE DON'T READ THIS IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY... BECAUSE YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO *ENJOY* THIS ONE!

YOUNG AND OLD, BIG AND SMALL, MIGHTY THOR HAS FOUGHT THEM ALL! BUT, *THIS* TIME HE COMES UP AGAINST A FANTASTIC FOE WHOSE POWER MIGHT EVEN DESTROY THE THUNDER GOD HIMSELF! WE THINK YOU'LL FLIP OVER OUR NEWEST SINISTER STAR... THE GREY GARGOYLE!



WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE,
WHO NEEDS THE MONEY

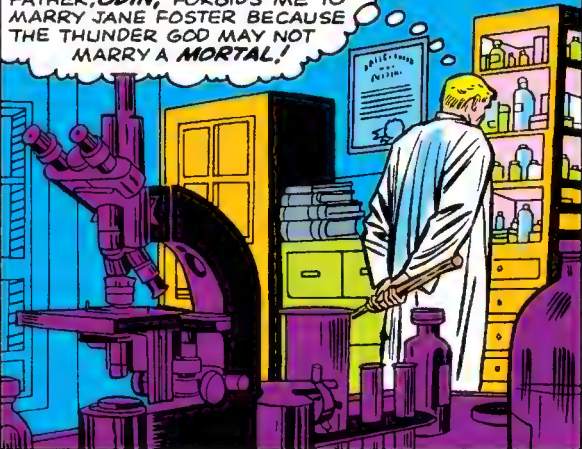
DRAWN BY:
JACK KIRBY,
WHO ENJOYS THE PRACTICE

INKED BY:
CHIC STONE,
WHO LOVES THE PUBLICITY

LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK,
WHOEVER HE IS!

THE INNER OFFICE OF DR. DON BLAKE IS EMPTY NOW! THE LAST PATIENT HAS DEPARTED, AND THE BROODING PHYSICIAN IS WRAPPED UP IN HIS OWN TROUBLED THOUGHTS...

IT SEEMS I'M NEVER TO FIND THE HAPPINESS I SEEK! AS **THOR**, GOD OF THUNDER, MY FATHER, **ODIN**, FORBIDS ME TO MARRY JANE FOSTER BECAUSE THE THUNDER GOD MAY NOT MARRY A **MORTAL**!



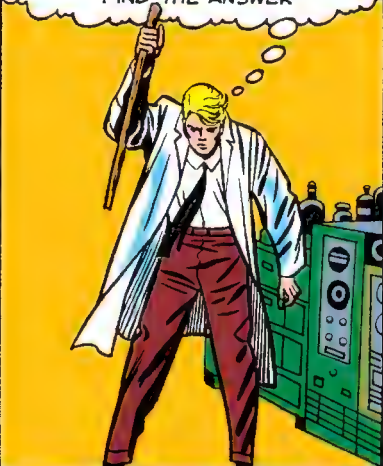
AND, AS DON BLAKE, JANE FOSTER HAS NOTHING BUT LOATHING FOR ME, SINCE SHE THINKS THAT I **BETRAYED** THOR TO THE COBRA AND MR. HYDE IN ORDER TO SAVE MYSELF!*

...AND THERE IS NO WAY I CAN CONVINCE HER HOW **WRONG** SHE IS WITHOUT REVEALING THAT DR. BLAKE AND MIGHTY **THOR** ARE ONE AND THE SAME MAN!!



*REFER TO **THOR** #105--
"THE THUNDER GOD STRIKES BACK!"--EDITOR.

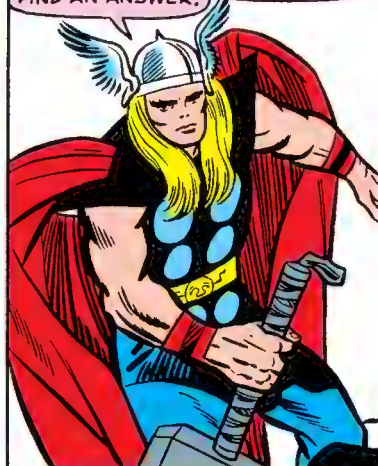
IT'S TOO BIG A PROBLEM FOR ME TO SOLVE! I DON'T KNOW **WHAT** TO DO! BUT, IF **DON BLAKE** CAN'T FIND THE ANSWER--



--PERHAPS THERE IS ONE WHO **CAN**--



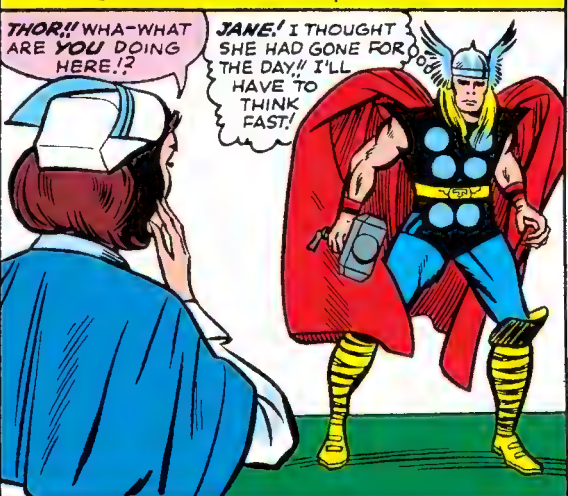
NOW, AS THE GOD OF THUNDER--AS AN IMMORTAL OF ASGARD, **THOR**, SON OF **ODIN**, MAY BE ABLE TO FIND AN ANSWER!



BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, THE DOOR TO THE OUTER OFFICE OPENS WIDE, AND...

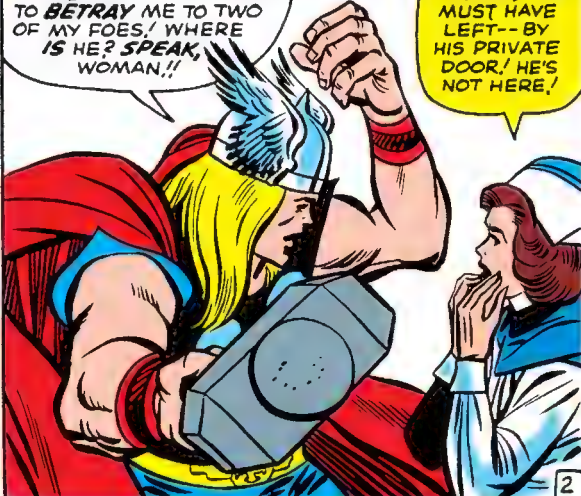
THOR!! WHA-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

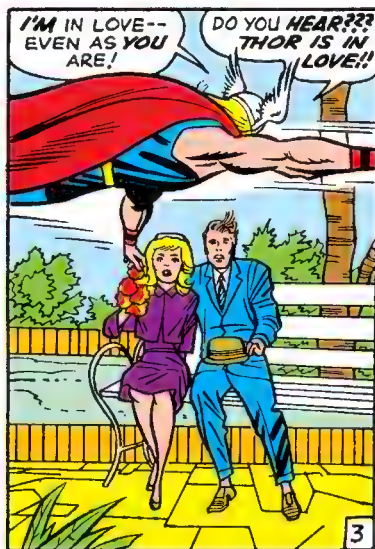
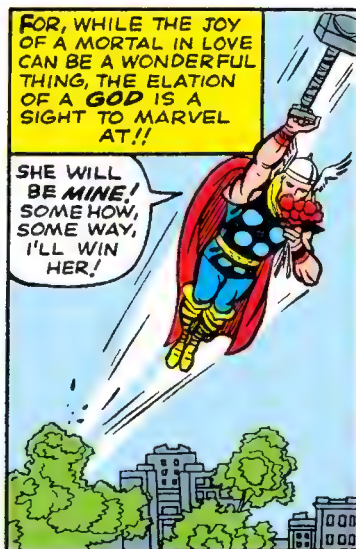
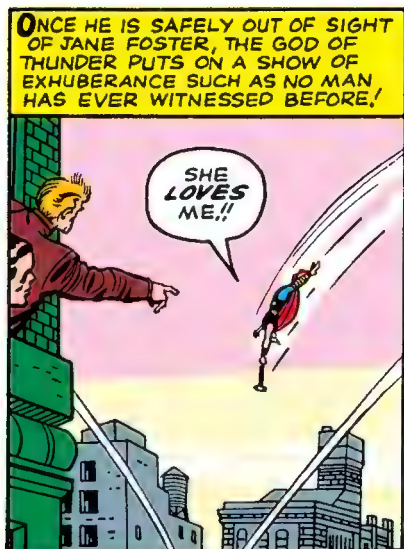
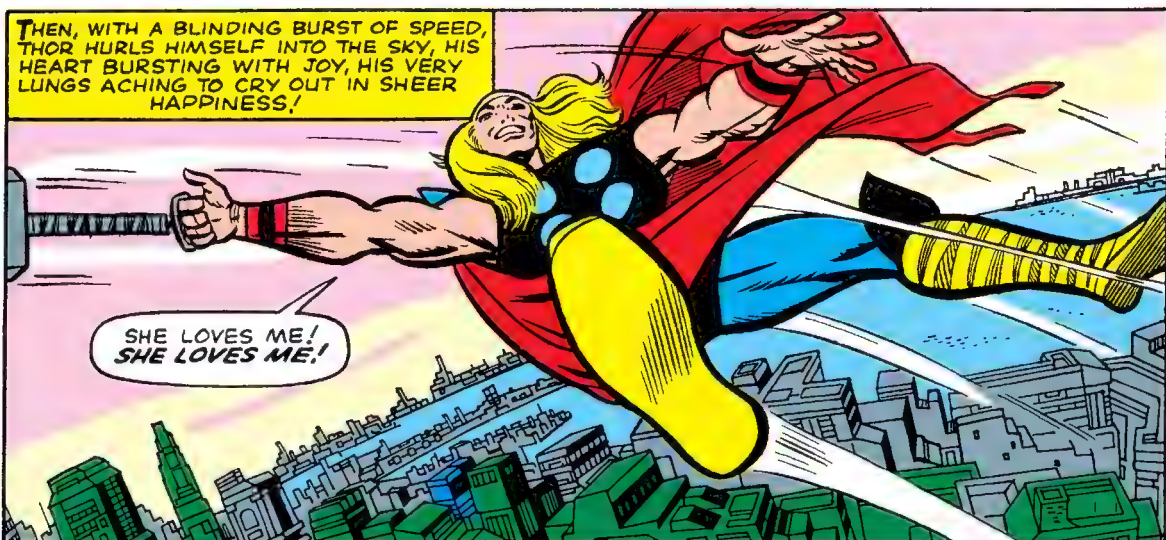
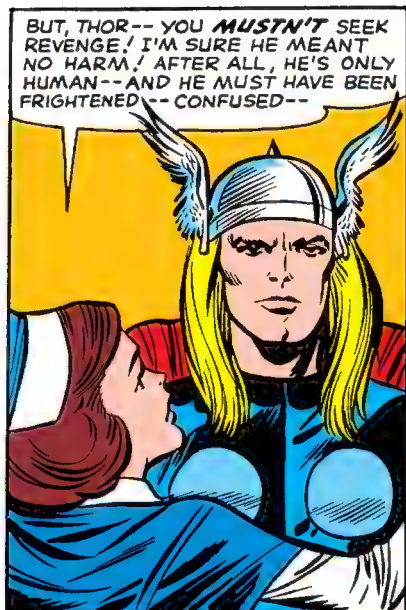
JANE! I THOUGHT SHE HAD GONE FOR THE DAY!! I'LL HAVE TO THINK FAST!



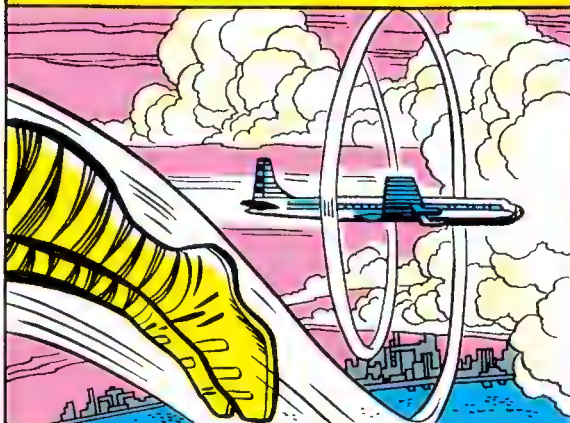
I CAME TO FIND **BLAKE**! I'VE BEEN TOLD HE TRIED TO **BETRAY** ME TO TWO OF MY FOES! WHERE IS HE? **SPEAK**, WOMAN!!

I-I DON'T **KNOW**! HE MUST HAVE LEFT-- BY HIS PRIVATE DOOR! HE'S NOT HERE!

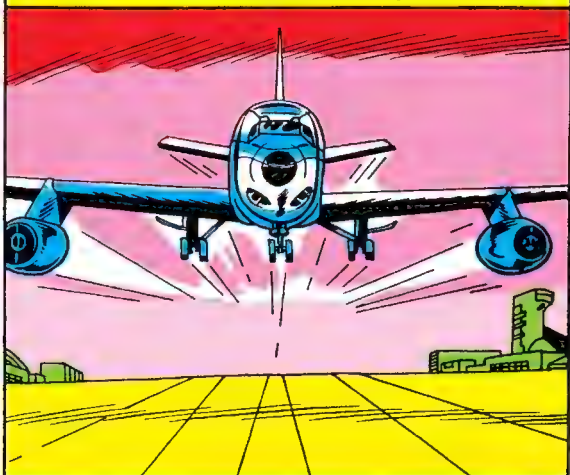




AND THEN, IN ONE FINAL BURST OF UNRESTRAINED ENTHUSIASM, THE LIGHT-HEARTED THUNDER GOD DOES A PINWHEEL AROUND AN INCOMING TRANS-ATLANTIC JET WHICH IS PREPARING TO LAND AT J.F.K. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...

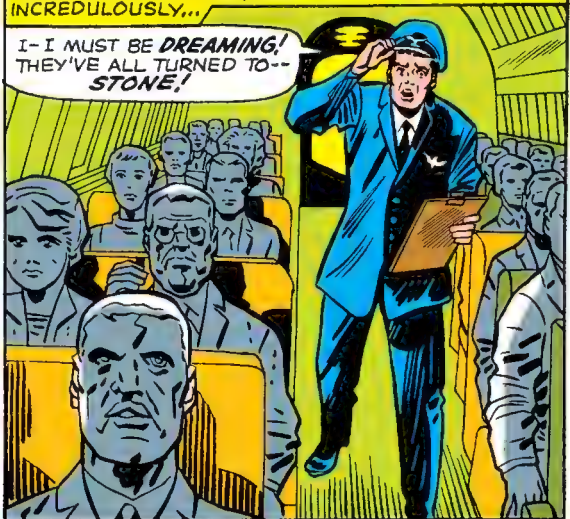


SECONDS LATER, LIKE A ROARING STEEL GOLIATH, THE SPEEDING JET MAKES A FLAWLESS LANDING, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!

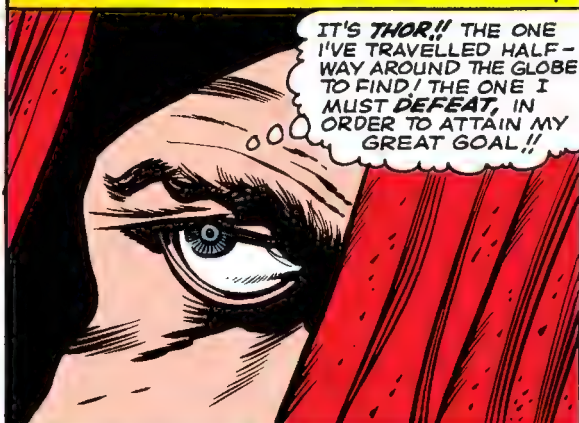


AND INDEED THEY **ARE** FOUND WITHIN THE SHIP-- BUT IN A CONDITION NO PASSENGERS AND CREW HAVE EVER BEEN FOUND IN **BEFORE!!** WITH STARK DISBELIEF IN HIS EYES, THE STEWARD EXCLAIMS INCREDULOUSLY...

I-I MUST BE **DREAMING!** THEY'VE ALL TURNED TO-- **STONE!**



BUT, WITHIN THE GIANT SHIP, THERE IS ONE WHOSE HEART IS **NOT** FILLED WITH GOOD CHEER-- ONE WHOSE COLD BALEFUL EYE WATCHES THE MIGHTY IMMORTAL FLY OFF--AS HIS BRAIN HATCHES ONE OF THE MOST VILLANOUS PLOTS OF ALL TIMES!



IT'S **THOR!!** THE ONE I'VE TRAVELLED HALF-WAY AROUND THE GLOBE TO FIND! THE ONE I MUST **DEFEAT**, IN ORDER TO ATTAIN MY GREAT GOAL!!

BUT THEN, WHEN THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN, AND THE STEWARD WAITS BELOW FOR THE USUAL RUSH OF PASSENGERS, ONLY **ONE MAN** SLOWLY EMERGES...



WH-WHERE ARE THE **OTHERS**, SIR?

YOU WILL FIND THEM INSIDE!

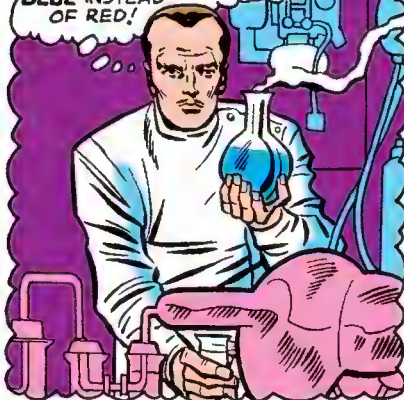
AND, IN A TAXICAB, MAKING ITS WAY THRU THE CROWDED CITY'S TRAFFIC...



BY THE TIME THE **STONE SPELL** WEARS OFF THEM AND THEY ARE ABLE TO ACCUSE ME, I'LL BE SAFELY HIDDEN AMONG THE TEEMING MILLIONS OF THE CITY!

"I CAN STILL HARDLY BELIEVE THAT IT ALL HAPPENED SO QUICKLY! IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY THAT I WAS AN UNKNOWN YOUNG CHEMIST IN PARIS..."

THERE IS SOMETHING **WRONG** WITH THIS MIXTURE! IT HAS TURNED **BLUE** INSTEAD OF **RED**!



DUVAL! HAVE YOU FINISHED THAT SOLUTION YET?? THE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR IS WAITING FOR THE RESULT!



I'M SORRY, SIR! IT WILL TAKE A FEW MOMENTS LONGER! A STRANGE, FOREIGN SUBSTANCE SEEMS TO HAVE AFFECTED THE MIXTURE!



THEN, AFTER HIS SUPERIOR HAS LEFT...

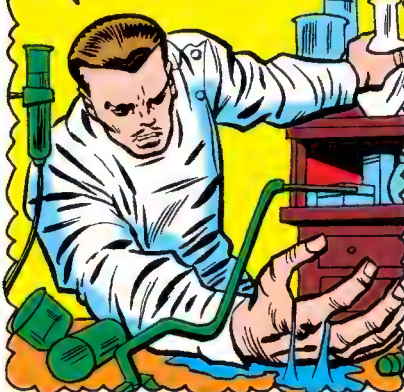
HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I TAKE ORDERS LIKE A MERE LACKEY?? PAUL DUVAL IS MEANT FOR **GREATER** THINGS!

OH! I HAVE CARELESSLY SPILLED THE POTION ON MY HAND!



IT IS **INCREDIBLE!!** IT FEELS LIKE **LIQUID FIRE!** IT SEEMS TO HAVE A LIFE OF ITS OWN!

WHAT HAVE I **DONE??** WHAT IS HAPPENING TO MY HAND??



NO! IT ISN'T **POSSIBLE!** IT CAN'T BE! THE FINGERS ARE TURNING INTO **STONE!!**



IT'S THE STRANGE SUBSTANCE IN THE MIXTURE!! IT GAVE THE LIQUID A POWER I NEVER SUSPECTED! BUT NOW-- **MON DIEU!!**

MY **OTHER** HAND HAS TURNED TO **STONE--** MERELY BY **TOUCHING** IT!

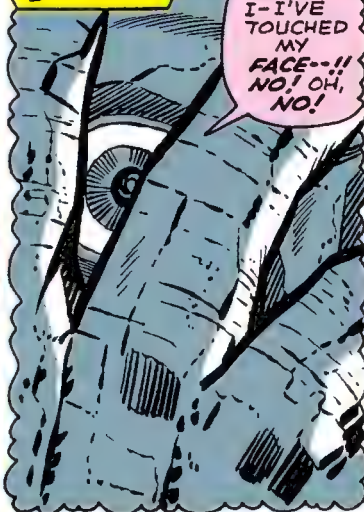


WHAT WILL **HAPPEN** TO ME?? WHERE WILL IT **END??** I'VE BECOME A **FREAK--** A STRANGE, INHUMAN TYPE OF BEING! HOW CAN I GO OUT IN PUBLIC?? HOW CAN I FACE THE WORLD??



BUT THEN...

WAIT! I-I'VE TOUCHED MY **FACE--!!** NO! OH, NO!



IT'S **TRUE!!** WHATEVER I **TOUCH**, WITH MY HAND OF **STONE--** THAT **ALSO** TURNS INTO **LIVING STONE!!** WHAT MANNER OF **MADNESS** IS THIS??!





"I REMEMBER HOW I THEN TESTED MY **STONE SPELL** BY TOUCHING **ANOTHER MAN IN THE STREET!** IT WORKED ON OTHERS AS WELL AS ON MYSELF!"

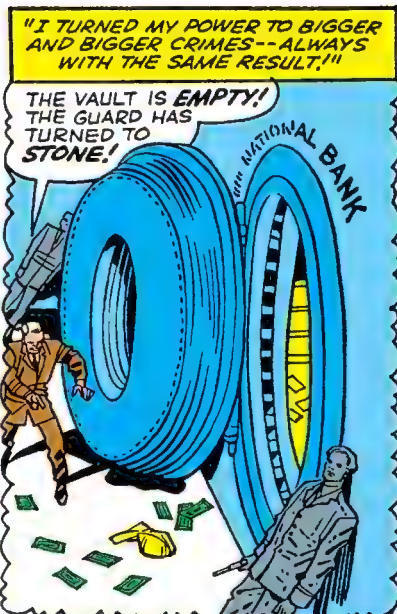
A MOMENT AGO HE WAS **HUMAN!** NOW HE'S A THING OF **STONE!**

A MAN MERELY **TOUCHED** HIM, AND NOW-- **LOOK!**



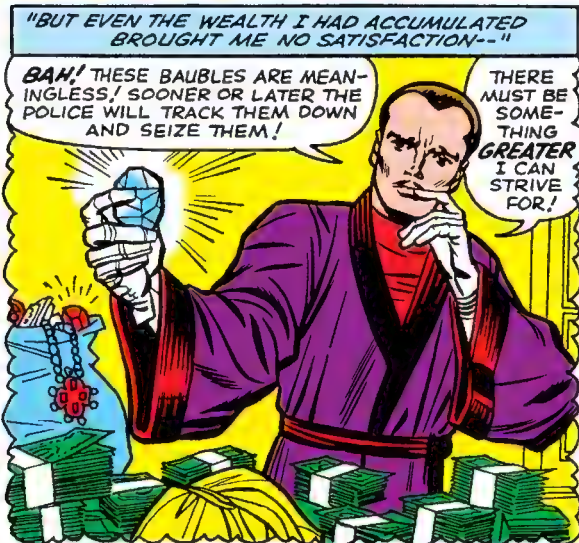
"THEN, I REALIZED MY **STONE SPELL** ENABLED ME TO ACCOMPLISH ALMOST **ANYTHING!** ALL I NEEDED TO DO, TO ROB A STORE, WAS **TOUCH** THE PROPRIETOR!"

DO NOT FEAR, MY FRIEND! MY **STONE SPELL** LASTS FOR ONLY AN HOUR! SIXTY SECONDS FROM NOW YOU WILL BE NORMAL AGAIN--THOUGH CONSIDERABLY **POORER!**



"I TURNED MY POWER TO BIGGER AND BIGGER CRIMES--ALWAYS WITH THE SAME RESULT!"

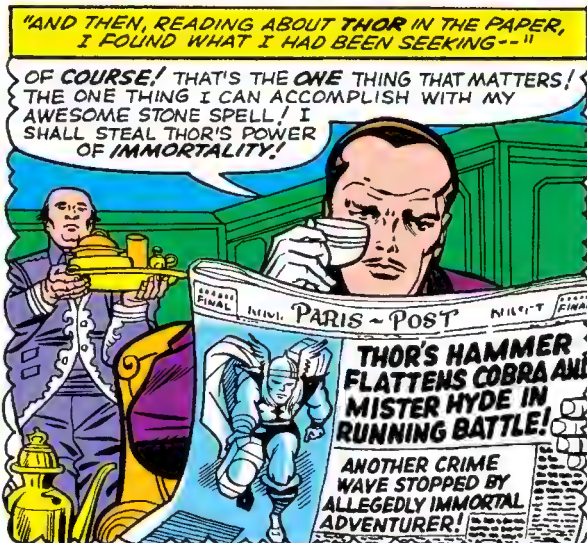
THE VAULT IS **EMPTY!** THE GUARD HAS TURNED TO **STONE!**



"BUT EVEN THE WEALTH I HAD ACCUMULATED BROUGHT ME NO SATISFACTION--"

BAH! THESE BAUBLES ARE MEANINGLESS! SOONER OR LATER THE POLICE WILL TRACK THEM DOWN AND SEIZE THEM!

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING **GREATER** I CAN STRIVE FOR!



"AND THEN, READING ABOUT **THOR** IN THE PAPER, I FOUND WHAT I HAD BEEN SEEKING--"

OF COURSE! THAT'S THE **ONE** THING THAT MATTERS! THE **ONE** THING I CAN ACCOMPLISH WITH MY AWESOME **STONE SPELL!** I SHALL STEAL **THOR'S** POWER OF **IMMORTALITY!**



IF **THOR** TRULY IS IMMORTAL, HIS POWER MUST COME FROM HIS ENCHANTED **HAMMER!** SOMEHOW I MUST WIN IT FROM HIM!

HERE'S THE CENTER OF TOWN, LIKE YOU ASKED, PAL!



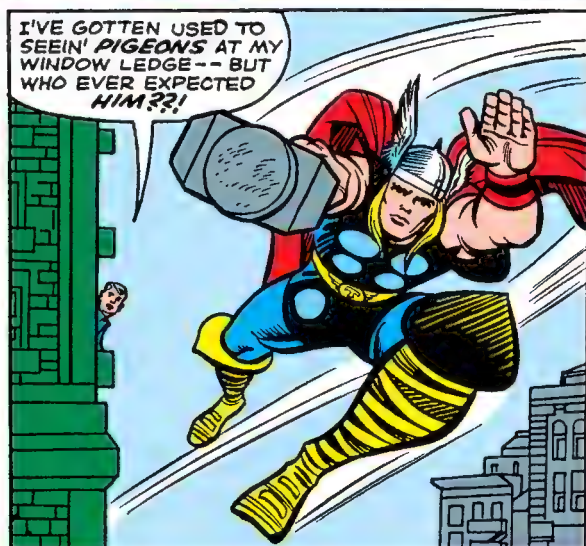
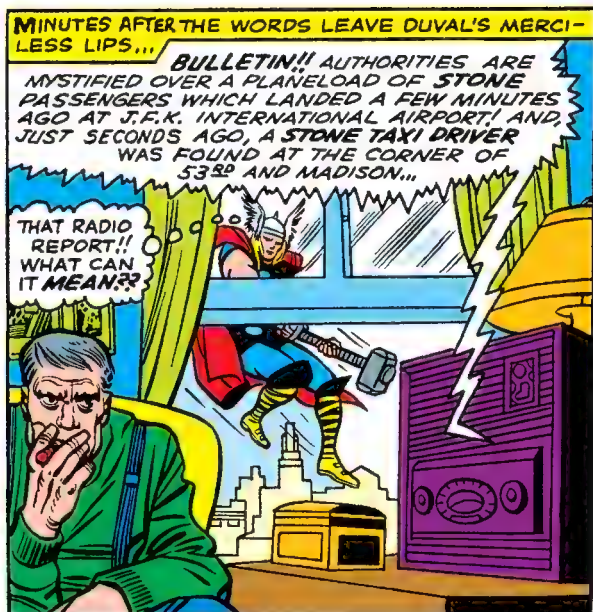
SLOWLY, MENACINGLY, THE COLD-EYED PASSENGER REMOVES HIS GLOVE...

I AM **NOT** YOUR PAL!



AND THEN, AT A TOUCH OF HIS GREY, **STONE-HARD** FINGERS...

NOW! YOU WILL REMAIN THIS WAY FOR **ONE HOUR!** IN THAT TIME, **THOR** IS SURE TO LEARN WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND COME TO INVESTIGATE! AND THEN--I SHALL **STRIKE!**



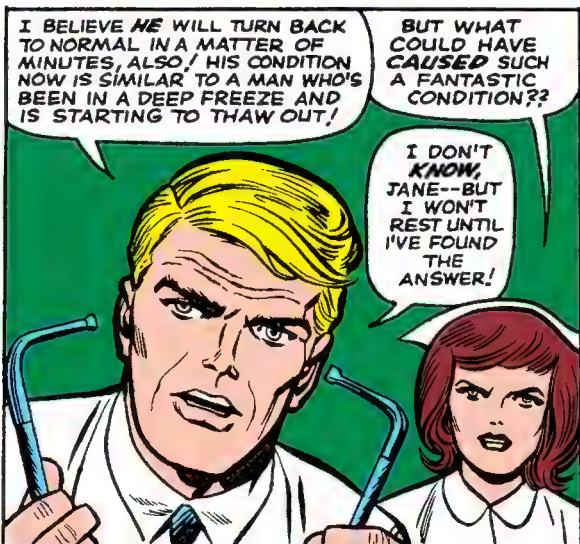


DOCTOR BLAKE!! WHAT IS IT??

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, JANE! BRING ME MY MEDICAL BAG AND ADMIT NO PATIENTS FOR THE REST OF THE DAY!

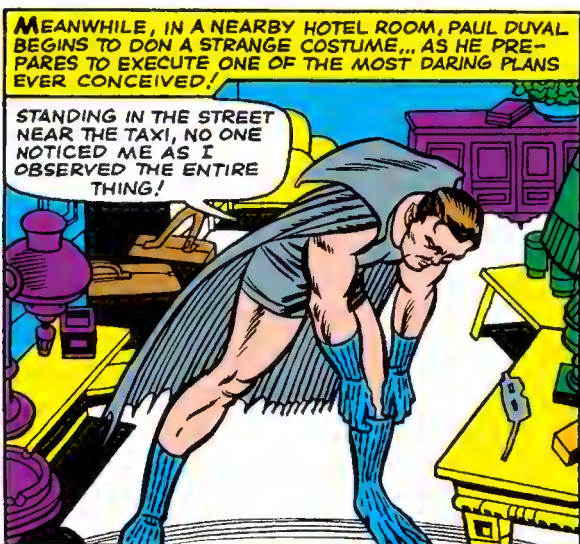


THAT STONE MAN! HE MUST HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH THOSE FIGURES FOUND AT THE AIRPORT! BUT THE LATEST BULLETIN SAID THEY HAVE TURNED BACK TO **NORMAL** AGAIN!



BUT WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED SUCH A FANTASTIC CONDITION??

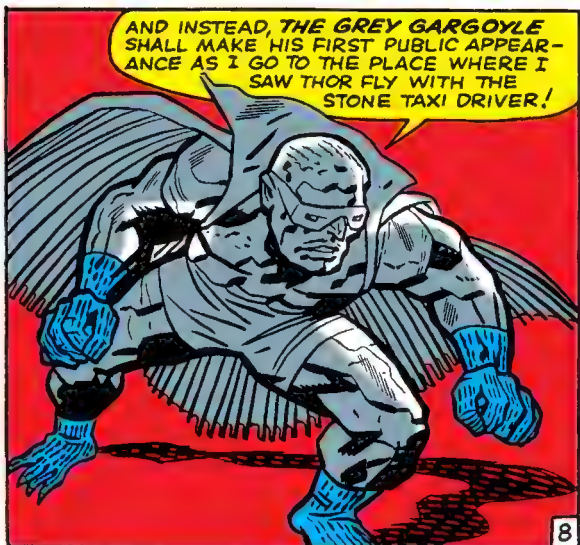
I DON'T KNOW, JANE--BUT I WON'T REST UNTIL I'VE FOUND THE ANSWER!



STANDING IN THE STREET NEAR THE TAXI, NO ONE NOTICED ME AS I OBSERVED THE ENTIRE THING!

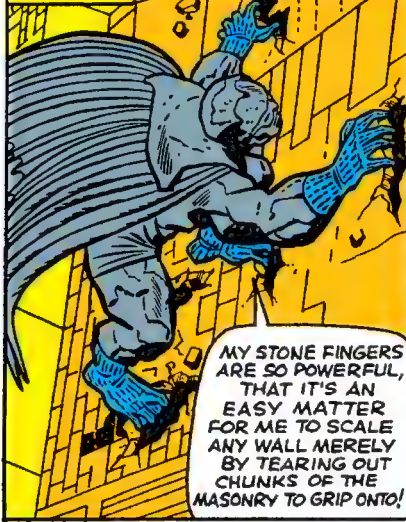


BUT NOW, BY REMOVING MY PROTECTIVE GLOVE, AND TOUCHING MY STONE HAND TO THE REST OF MY BODY, I SHALL CEASE BEING PAUL DUVAL FOR THE NEXT HOUR...



AND INSTEAD, THE GREY GARGOYLE SHALL MAKE HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE AS I GO TO THE PLACE WHERE I SAW THOR FLY WITH THE STONE TAXI DRIVER!

EFFORTLESSLY, EASILY, WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION, THE GREY GARGOYLE SCALES THE WALL OF HIS BUILDING...



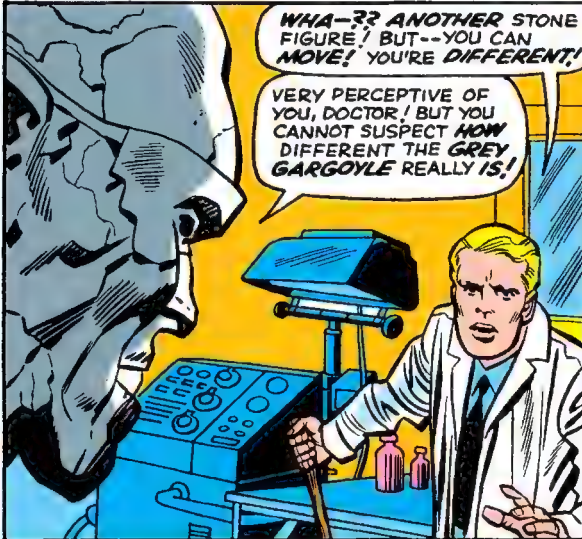
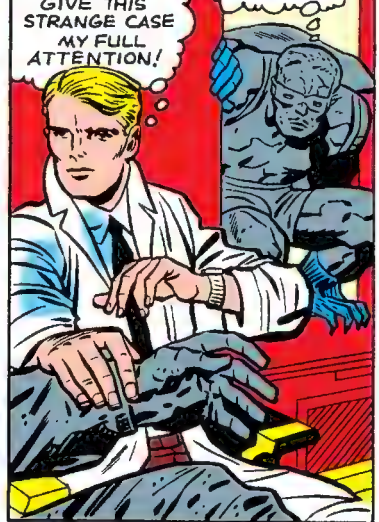
MY STONE FINGERS ARE SO POWERFUL, THAT IT'S AN EASY MATTER FOR ME TO SCALE ANY WALL MERELY BY TEARING OUT CHUNKS OF THE MASONRY TO GRIP ONTO!

THEN, MOVING MENACINGLY FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP, HE REACHES THE MIDTOWN OFFICE OF DR. DON BLAKE...



I'M GLAD I SENT JANE HOME EARLY! I WANT TO GIVE THIS STRANGE CASE MY FULL ATTENTION!

NOW TO WAIT FOR THOR TO RETURN!



WHA--?? ANOTHER STONE FIGURE! BUT--YOU CAN MOVE! YOU'RE DIFFERENT!

VERY PERCEPTIVE OF YOU, DOCTOR! BUT YOU CANNOT SUSPECT HOW DIFFERENT THE GREY GARGOYLE REALLY IS!

BEFORE YOU ENTERTAIN ANY FOOLISH NOTIONS SUCH AS TRYING TO SUMMON THE POLICE, LET ME SHOW YOU THE EXTENT OF MY POWER! SEE HOW I FOLD A PAPER AIRPLANE!..

I'LL HEAR HIM OUT! I MUST LEARN WHAT HIS PURPOSE IS!



NOW, MERELY BY TOUCHING IT TO THE EXPOSED PALM OF MY HAND, I TURN IT INTO A THING OF STONE!

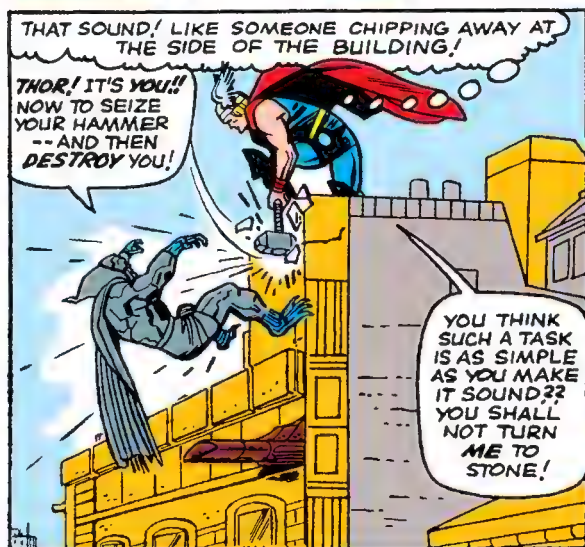
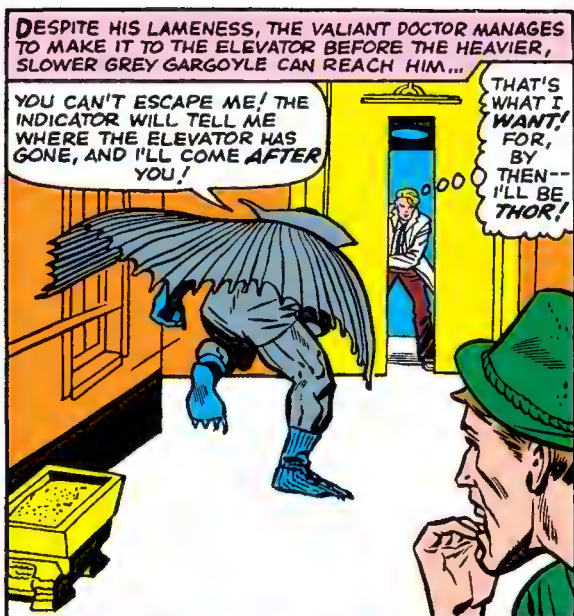
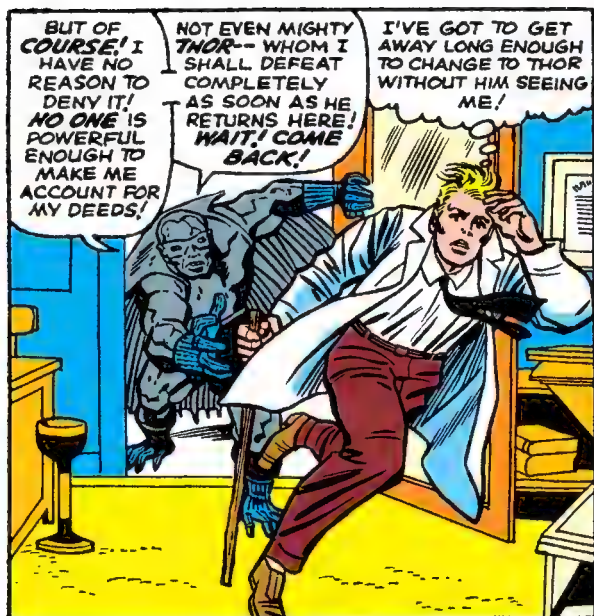


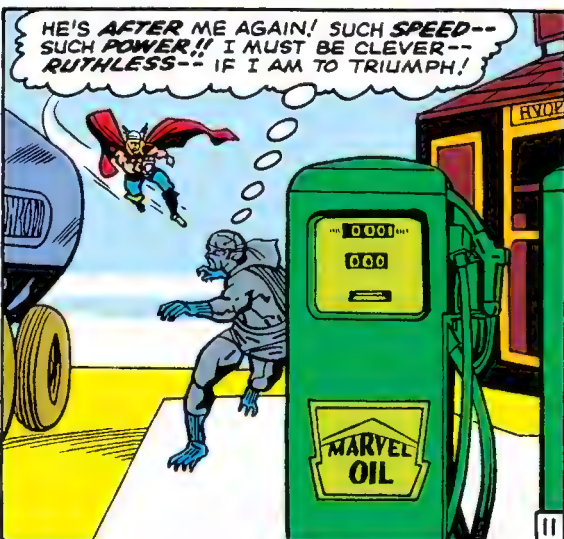
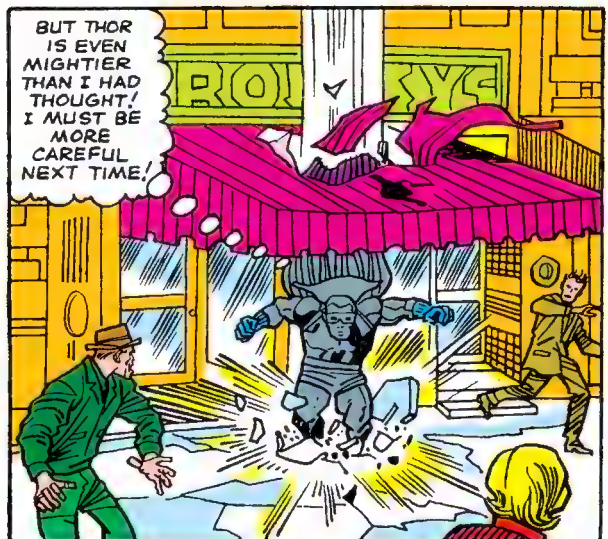
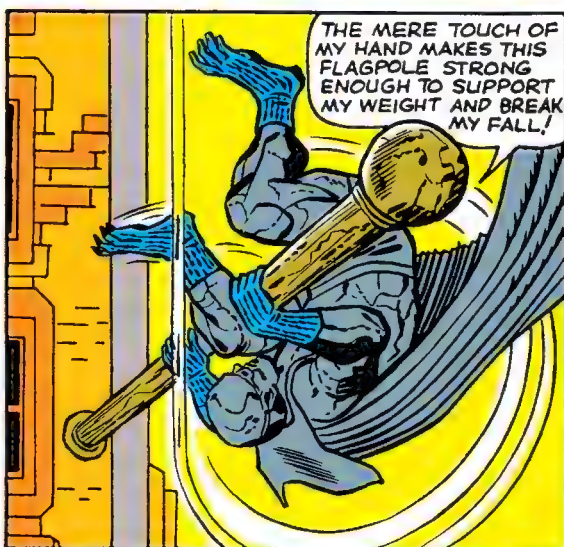
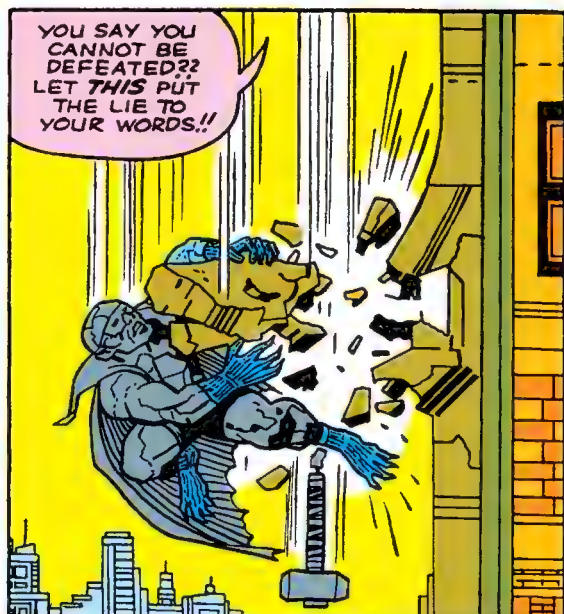
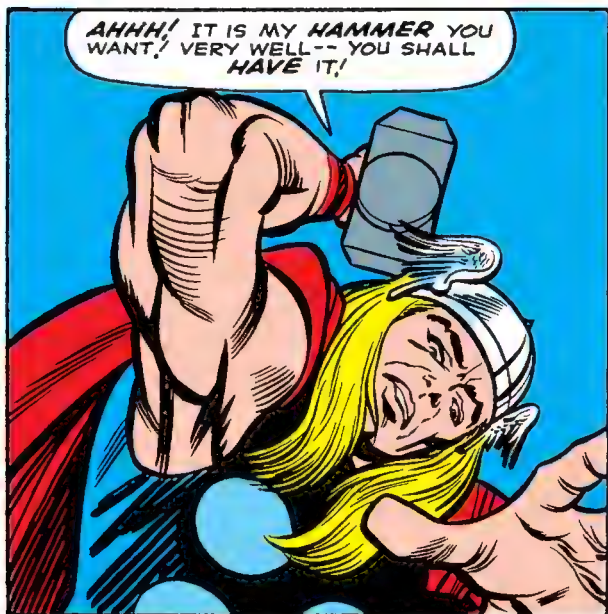
SO YOU SEE, DOCTOR, ANYTHING CAN BECOME A DANGEROUS WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF THE GREY GARGOYLE!!

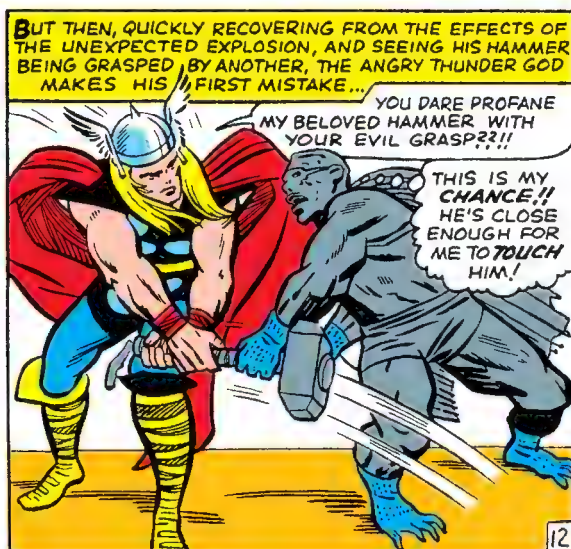
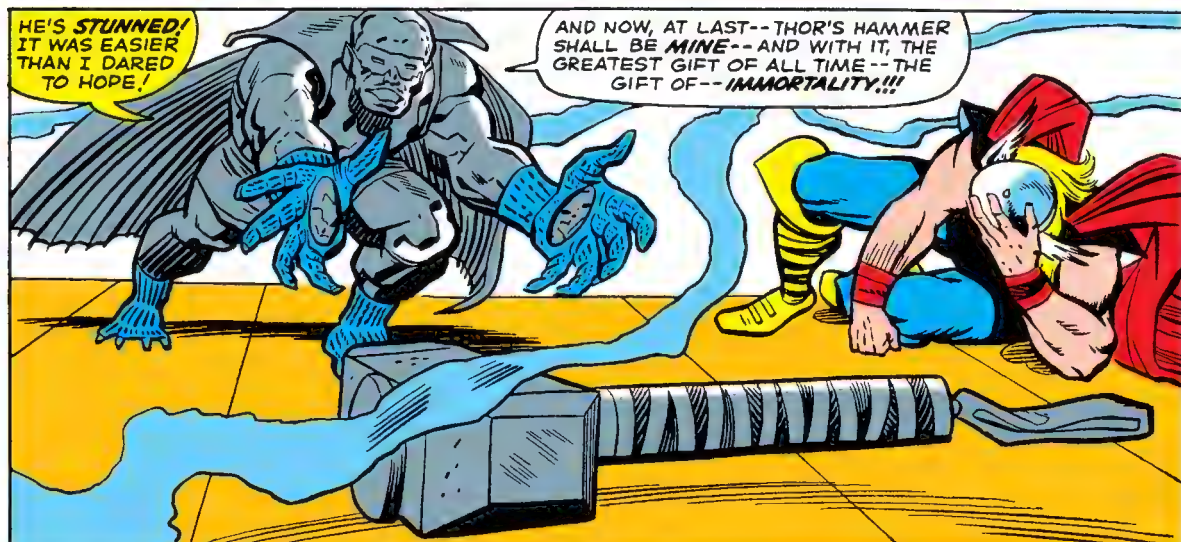


IF YOU POSSESS SUCH INCREDIBLE POWER, THEN YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING THOSE PEOPLE INTO STONE FIGURES!!









MOVING WITH SURPRISING SPEED FOR ONE SO HEAVY, THE GREY GARGOYLE LASHES OUT, TOUCHING THE ASTONISHED IMMORTAL WITH HIS NAKED PALM!!

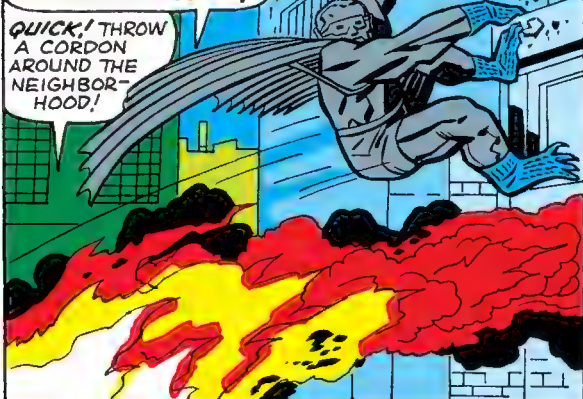


**I'VE DONE IT!
I'VE BEATEN YOU!
YOU'VE TURNED
TO MOTIONLESS
STONE!**

BUT, FAST THOUGH THE OFFICERS ARE, THE AWESOME GREY GARGOYLE IS EVEN FASTER--UTILIZING HIS AMAZING CLIMBING ABILITY, HE SCAMPERS UP THE SIDE OF A BUILDING, HIGHER THAN THE FLAME-THROWERS CAN REACH!

HE'S GETTING AWAY!

**QUICK! THROW
A CORDON
AROUND THE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD!**



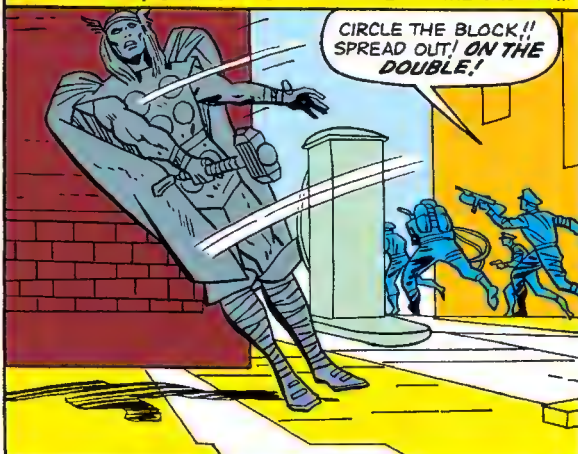
BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, A SPECIAL POLICE DETAIL REACHES THE SCENE, ARMED WITH PORTABLE FLAME-THROWERS!



**THERE
HE IS!!**

**TURN THE FLAME-THROWERS ON
HIM! THEY'RE THE ONLY THINGS
THAT MIGHT STOP HIM! FLAME
CAN TURN STONE TO
LAVA!**

AND, AS THE POLICE MOVE SPEEDILY TO CUT OFF THE GREY GARGOYLE'S ESCAPE, THEY FAIL TO NOTICE THE HANDSOME, SEEMINGLY-LIFELESS FIGURE WHO, STANDING OFF-BALANCE, BEGINS TO SLOWLY TOPPLE TO THE GROUND...



**CIRCLE THE BLOCK!!
SPREAD OUT! ON THE
DOUBLE!**

BUT, AS THE STONE FIGURE OF THOR STRIKES THE CEMENT BELOW HIM, HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER ALSO STRIKES THE GROUND-- AND, AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND...



...THE MOST DRAMATIC CHANGE IN ALL ADVENTUREDOM TAKES PLACE ONCE MORE! FOR, NO STONE SPELL, NO EARTHLY POWER, CAN PREVENT THE URU HAMMER FROM WEAVING ITS ENCHANTMENT AS ODIN HAD SO ORDAINED, MANY MANY CENTURIES AGO!

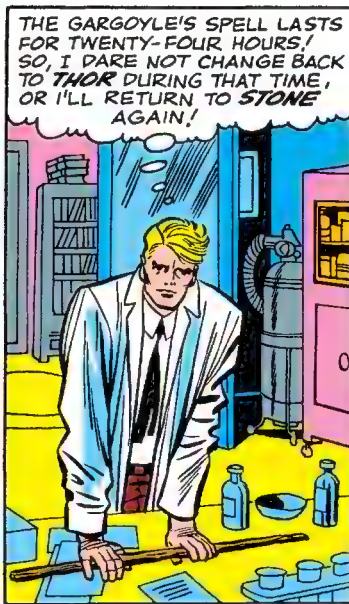
**I'M DON BLAKE AGAIN!! AND, WHEN
MY PHYSICAL SELF CHANGED--WHEN
MY ENTIRE NUCLEAR AND MOLECULAR
CELL STRUCTURE WAS ALTERED--
THE STONE SPELL ALSO FADED INTO
OBLIVION!!**

**I'M FLESH
AND BLOOD
ONCE MORE!
I CAN
MOVE!**





I MUST RETURN TO MY OFFICE-- I NEED TIME TO THINK-- TO PLAN! THE **GREY GARGOYLE** IS PERHAPS THE MOST DANGEROUS FOE I'VE EVER BATTLED!



THE GARGOYLE'S SPELL LASTS FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! SO, I DARE NOT CHANGE BACK TO **THOR** DURING THAT TIME, OR I'LL RETURN TO **STONE** AGAIN!



BUT I CAN'T STAY HERE AND DO **NOTHING!** THE GARGOYLE MUST BE **HIDING** NOW, GLOATING OVER HIS VICTORY! I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE HIM **SHOW** HIMSELF AGAIN-- I MUST LEARN MORE ABOUT HIM!

MOMENTS LATER, THE LAME PHYSICIAN PHONES A FRIEND WHO MANAGES A TV NEWSREEL COMPANY...

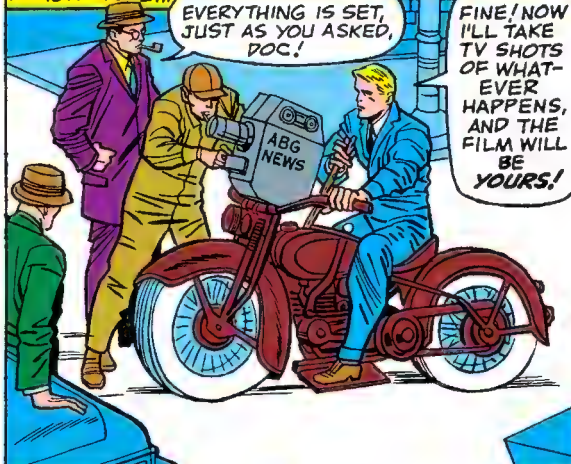
--AND IF YOU DO AS I SAY, I PROMISE YOU THE SCOOP OF THE CENTURY! **TONY STARK** HAS THE DEVICE YOU NEED-- TELL HIM THE CODE WORD I GAVE YOU, AND HE'LL LEND IT TO YOU!*

IT'S A DEAL, DOC! YOU'VE NEVER STEERED ME WRONG BEFORE! I'LL DO IT!



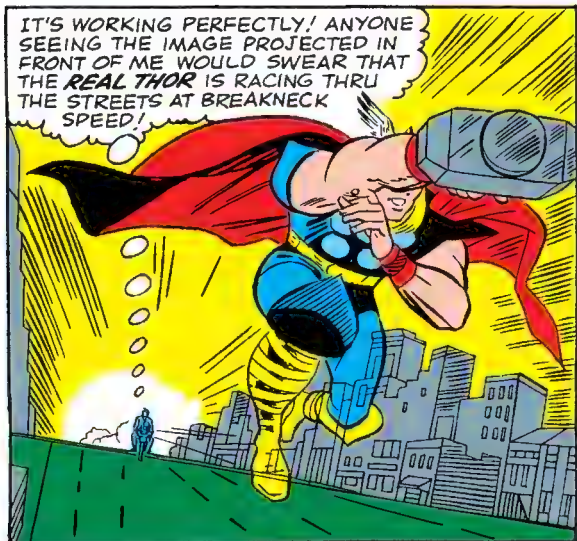
*THUS DO THE **AVENGERS** AID EACH OTHER IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE! TONY STARK IS, OF COURSE, THE INVENTIVE GENIUS WHOSE OTHER IDENTITY IS THAT OF **IRON MAN!**

A SHORT TIME LATER, A T.V. 3-D-TYPE PROJECTOR, CONTAINING CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS INVENTED BY TONY STARK, IS MOUNTED ON A FAST-MOVING MOTOR CYCLE...

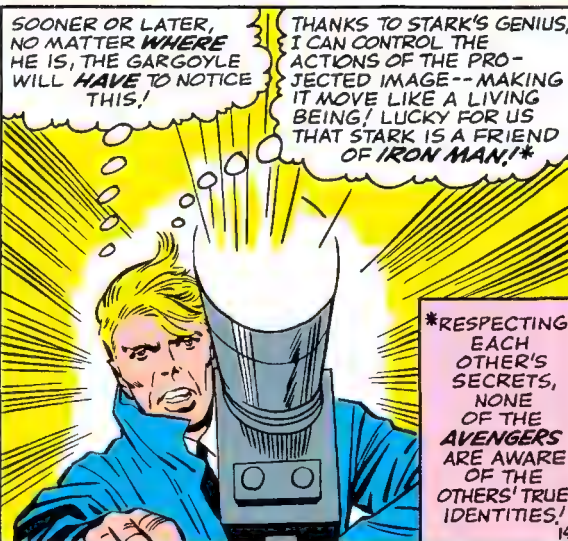


EVERYTHING IS SET, JUST AS YOU ASKED, DOC!

FINE! NOW I'LL TAKE TV SHOTS OF WHAT-EVER HAPPENS, AND THE FILM WILL BE **YOURS!**



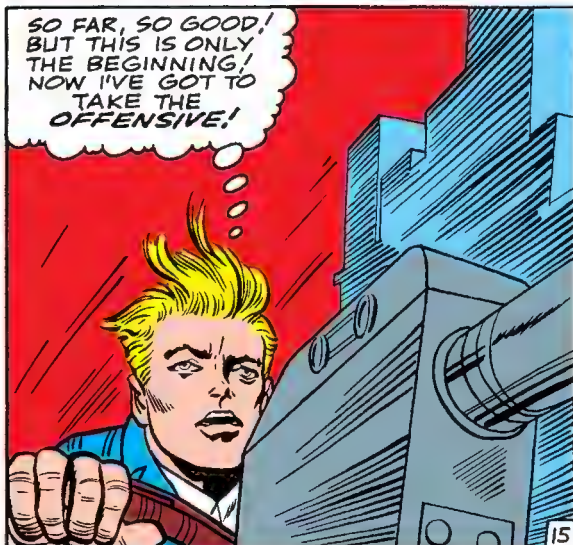
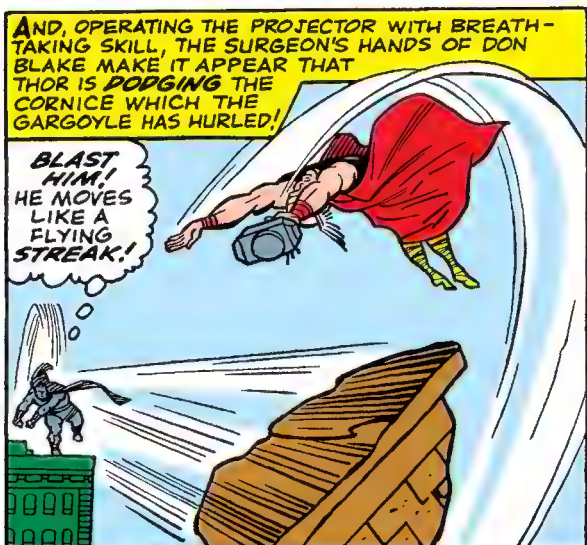
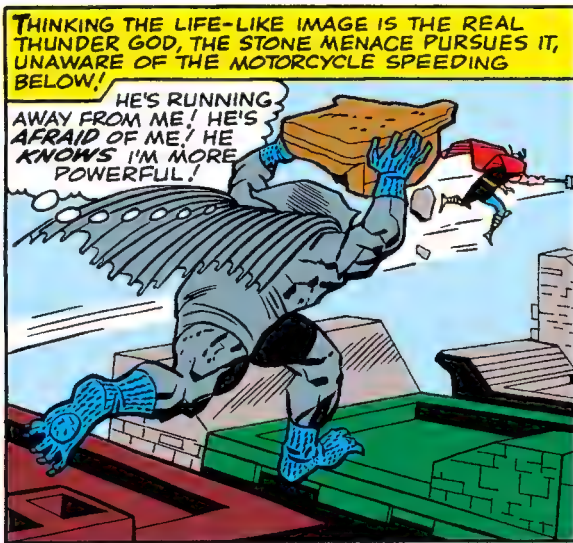
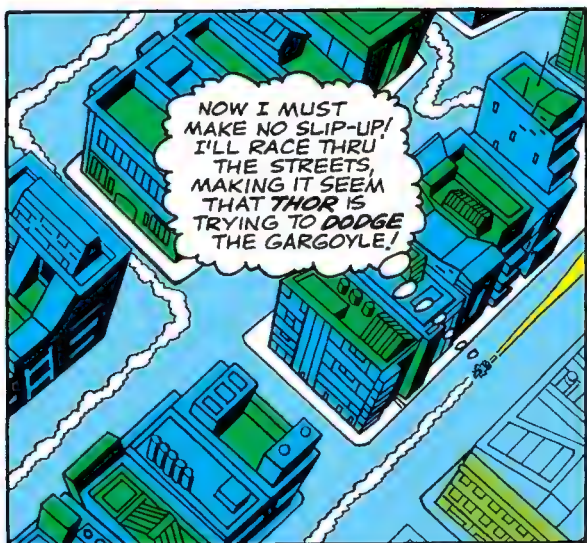
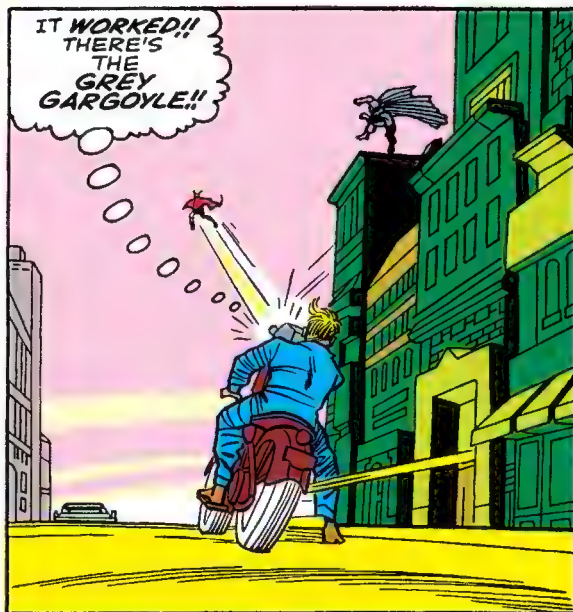
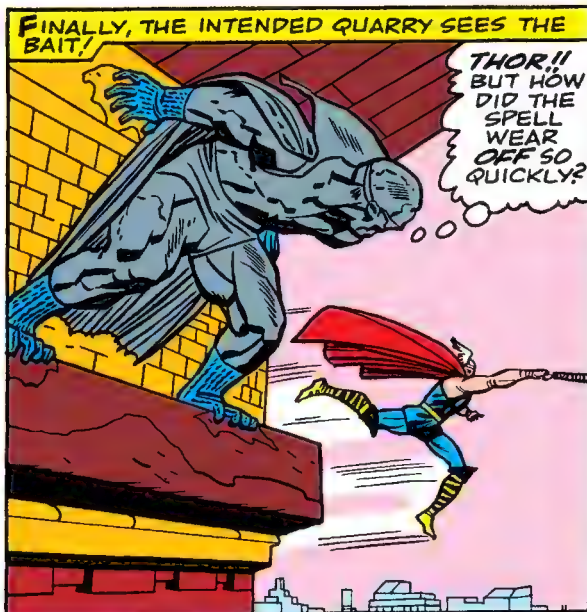
IT'S WORKING PERFECTLY! ANYONE SEEING THE IMAGE PROJECTED IN FRONT OF ME WOULD SWEAR THAT THE **REAL THOR** IS RACING THRU THE STREETS AT BREAKNECK SPEED!

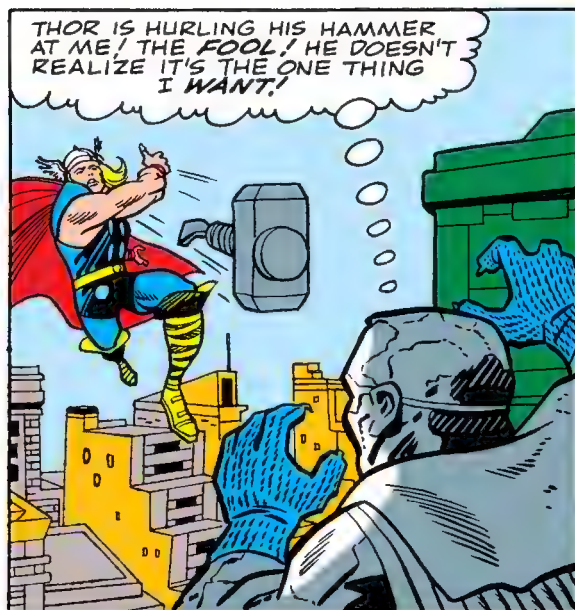


SOONER OR LATER, NO MATTER **WHERE** HE IS, THE GARGOYLE WILL **HAVE** TO NOTICE THIS!

THANKS TO STARK'S GENIUS, I CAN CONTROL THE ACTIONS OF THE PROJECTED IMAGE-- MAKING IT MOVE LIKE A LIVING BEING! LUCKY FOR US THAT STARK IS A FRIEND OF **IRON MAN!***

*RESPECTING EACH OTHER'S SECRETS, NONE OF THE **AVENGERS** ARE AWARE OF THE OTHERS' TRUE IDENTITIES!

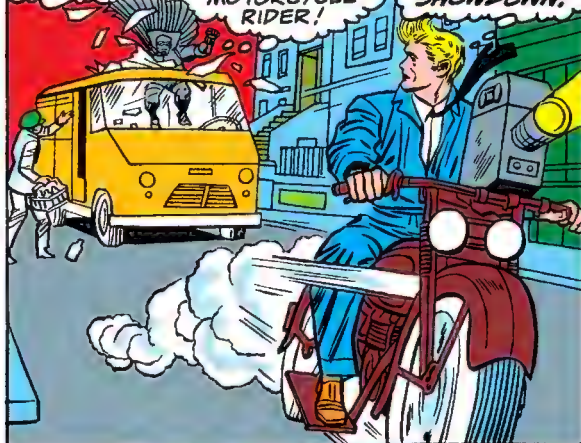




SUDDENLY, THE GARGOYLE GLANCES BELOW, NOTICING THE SPEEDING CYCLIST WITH THE STRANGE PROJECTOR! QUICKLY PUTTING TWO AND TWO TOGETHER, HE PLUNGES TO THE STREET--

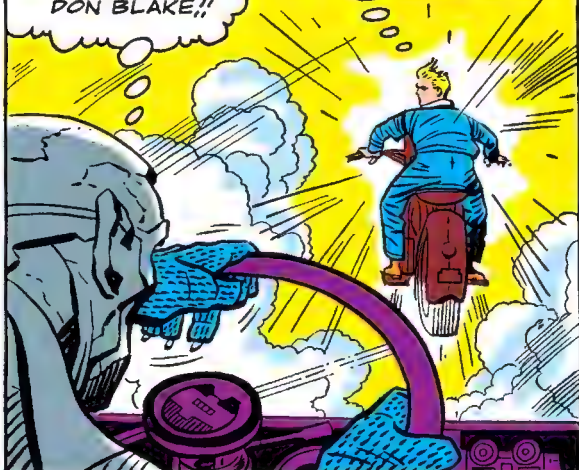
WHATEVER THE EXPLANATION IS, IT MUST LIE WITH THAT MOTORCYCLE RIDER!

HE'S ON TO ME! THIS IS THE SHOWDOWN!



I'LL CATCH HIM AND DRAG THE TRUTH OUT OF --WAIT! THAT FACE!! IT'S THE DOCTOR-- DON BLAKE!!

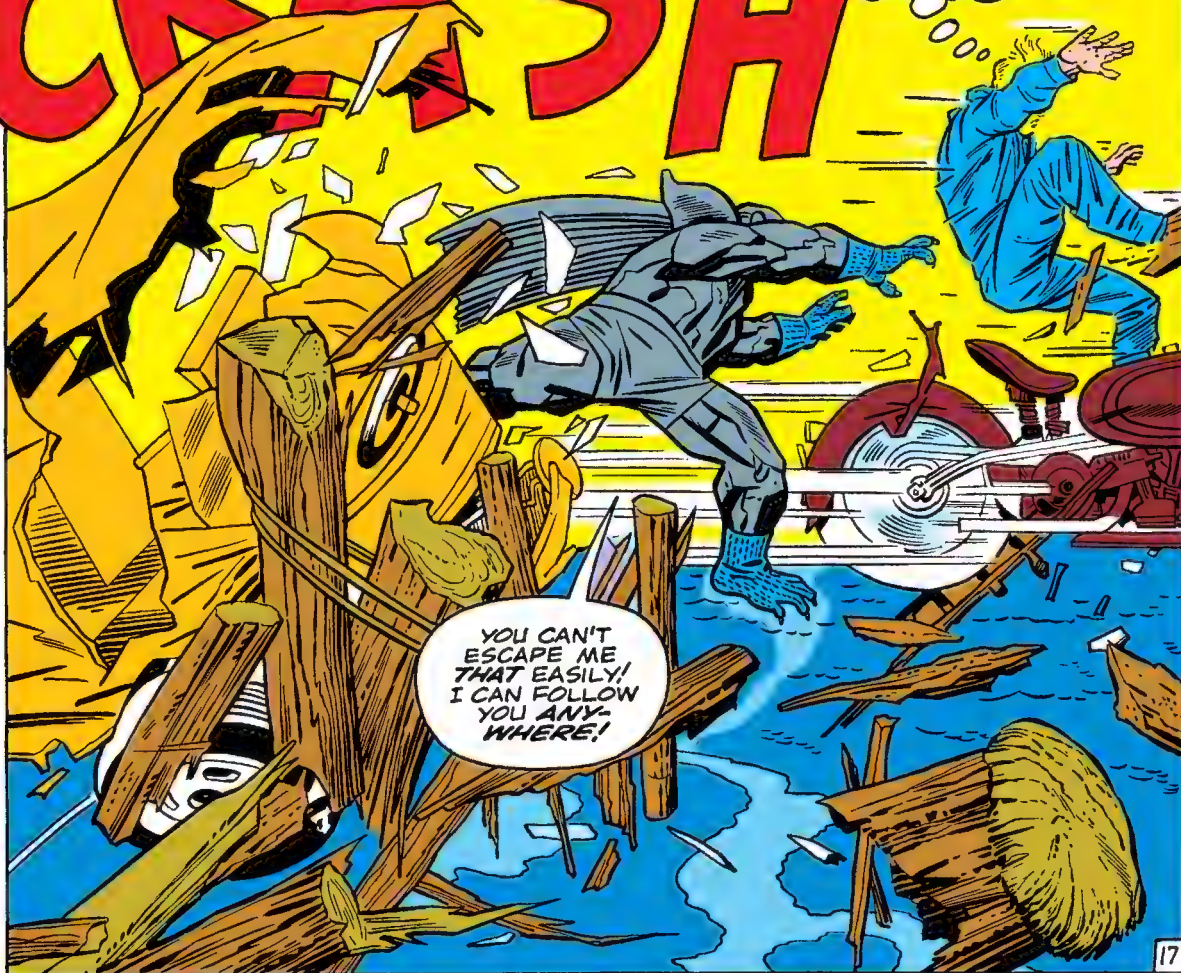
THE HUDSON RIVER IS JUST AHEAD! NOW, IF I CAN TIME THIS JUST RIGHT,...



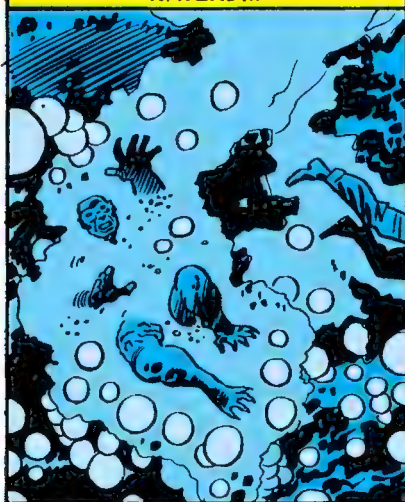
CRASH

I DID IT!! HE COULDN'T STOP IN TIME!! WITHIN SECONDS I'LL HAVE WON-- OR IT WILL BE MY FINISH!

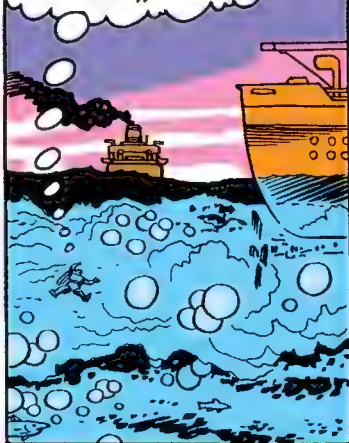
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME THAT EASILY! I CAN FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE!



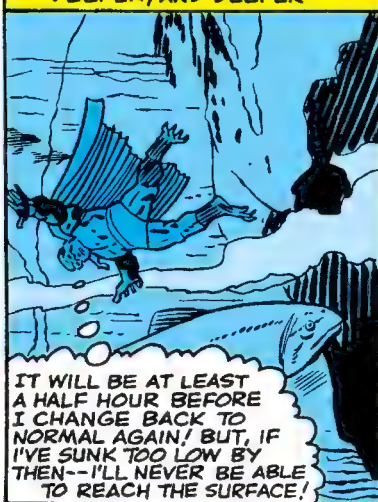
BUT, THE GREY GARGOYLE'S REACH FALLS INCHES SHORT OF THE VALIANT PHYSICIAN, AND BOTH FALL INTO THE DARK, MURKY WATERS...



ONE THING I DIDN'T REALIZE-- IT'S HARD TO KEEP AFLOAT-- MY STONE BODY IS TOO HEAVY!! THAT SHIP!! ITS WAKE IS PULLING ME OUT TO SEA!!



MINUTES LATER, UNABLE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE PULL OF HIS ABNORMALLY HEAVY WEIGHT, THE GREY GARGOYLE BEGINS TO SINK-- DEEPER, AND DEEPER--



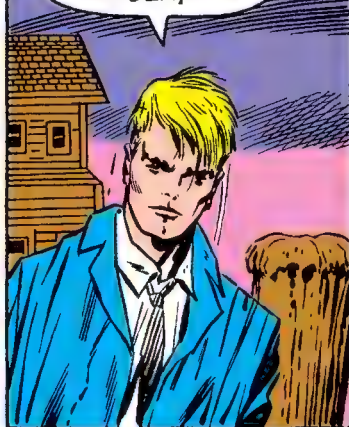
IT WILL BE AT LEAST A HALF HOUR BEFORE I CHANGE BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN! BUT, IF I'VE SUNK TOO LOW BY THEN--I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REACH THE SURFACE!

BUT ONE FIGURE DOES FINALLY CLIMB OUT OF THE SWIFT-RUSHING CURRENT...



IT'S OVER!! HE'S BEATEN!

THE GREY GARGOYLE FINALLY FOUND THE IMMORTALITY HE WANTED--AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA!



THE NEXT DAY, A HEROIC FIGURE APPEARS AT THE WINDOW OF DON BLAKE'S OFFICE...

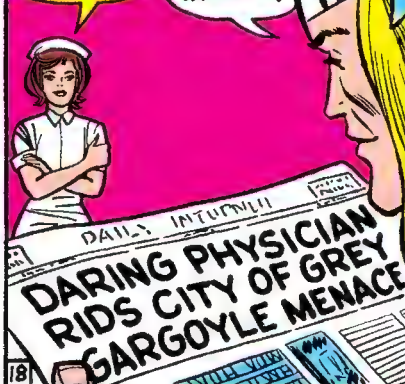


DR. BLAKE ISN'T HERE, THOR!

THIS IS THE CAB DRIVER WHO HAD TURNED TO STONE, AFTER THE SPELL WORE OFF, HE WANTED TO THANK THE DOCTOR!

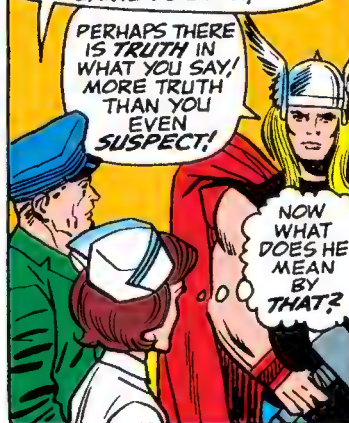
WHERE IS BLAKE?

HE'S HOME, RESTING! AS YOU CAN SEE, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY HERO AROUND HERE!



HMMM... PERHAPS BLAKE IS BRAVER THAN I HAD THOUGHT!

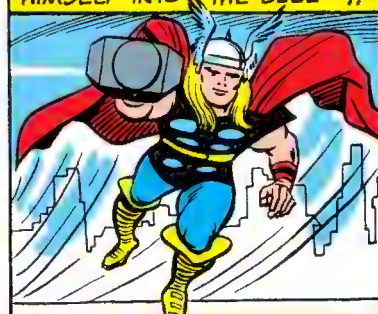
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, MISTER! ANYONE AS POWERFUL AS YOU CAN BE A REAL RIP-SNORTER--BUT YOU GOTTA HAND IT TO THAT SPUNKY LAME DOCTOR!



PERHAPS THERE IS TRUTH IN WHAT YOU SAY! MORE TRUTH THAN YOU EVEN SUSPECT!

NOW WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THAT?

THEN, WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE MIGHTY THOR, HIS HEART SINGING, TURNS AND HURLS HIMSELF INTO THE BLUE--!!



THOR BATTLES AGAINST HIS OWN ALLIES IN AVENGERS#7, NOW ON SALE! ALSO, DON'T MISS OUR NEXT GREAT ISSUE OF THOR, IN WHICH THE SON OF ODIN MEETS A SURPRISE GUEST STAR!! SEE YOU THEN!

THE END

**Tales of
ASGARD**
HOME
OF THE
MIGHTY NORSE
GODS

OUR LEGENDARY TALE BEGINS WHEN EVIL LOKI VOWS:

"BALDER MUST DIE!"

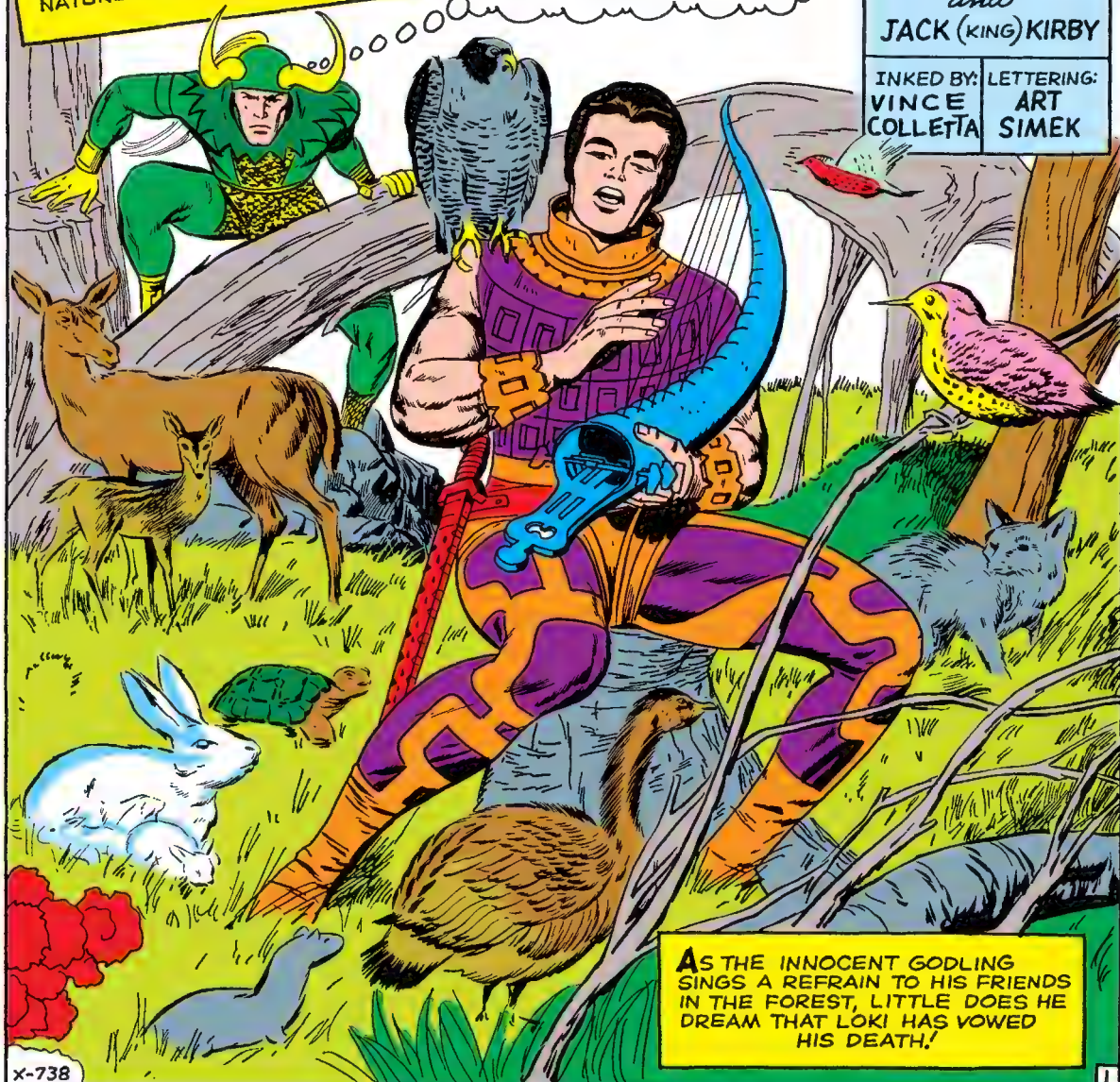
LAST ISSUE, WE SAW ODIN GIVE BRAVE BALDER THE GIFT OF INVULNERABILITY! BALDER, THE LOYAL! BALDER, THE GENTLE! BALDER, THE PROTECTOR, THE PROTECTOR OF ALL OF NATURE'S LIVING CREATURES!

THE SIMPERING, SOFT-HEARTED BALDER BECOMES ODIN'S FAVORITE, NEXT TO THE ACCURSED THOR! BUT NOT FOR LONG! I SHALL FIND A WAY TO DESTROY HIM!

WRITTEN AND DRAWN
BY THE PRIZE-
WINNING TEAM OF:

STAN (THE MAN) LEE
and
JACK (KING) KIRBY

INKED BY: LETTERING:
VINCE COLLETTA ART SIMEK



AS THE INNOCENT GODLING SINGS A REFRAIN TO HIS FRIENDS IN THE FOREST, LITTLE DOES HE DREAM THAT LOKI HAS VOWED HIS DEATH!



SEE HIM FUSSING OVER THE BRAIN-LESS BIRDS AND BEASTS, SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ODIN HAS MADE HIM **INVINCIBLE!** BUT I'LL FIND **SOME** WAY TO STRIKE AT HIM! LOKI, GOD OF MISCHIEF, CANNOT BEAR TO SEE ONE SO HAPPY AND CONTENTED!



THE **NORN QUEEN**, MISTRESS OF MAGIC, IS SURE TO KNOW A MYSTIC SPELL WHICH CAN HELP ME DESTROY THE BRAVE BALDER!

THERE SHE IS **NOW**, PRACTICING HER MAGICAL CHANTS ---WEAVING HER WEB OF SORCERY!



LOKI!! THE EVIL ONE! **BEGONE!** THE NORN QUEEN HAS NO USE FOR SUCH AS YOU!

SILENCE, FEMALE! YOUR FEELINGS ARE OF NO IMPORTANCE TO THE SON OF ODIN! I HAVE A **TASK** FOR YOU!



NO! I SHALL NOT SERVE YOU! YOU ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL THAT IS EVIL--ALL THAT IS SINISTER!!

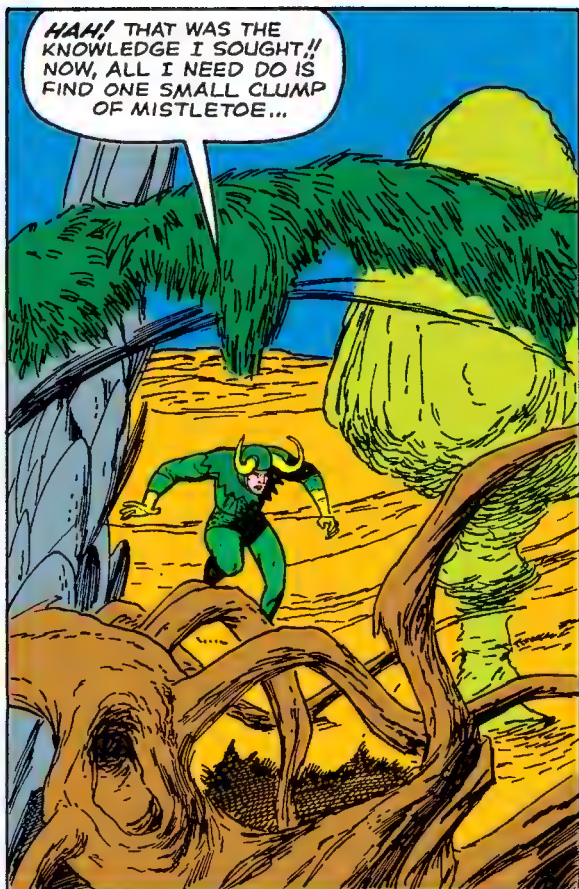
I DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR **COMPLIMENT!** AND NOW, HEAR MY WISHES--HEAR THE WISHES OF THE **GOD OF MISCHIEF**, FOR I AM TRULY YOUR **MASTER!**



I CANNOT REFUSE!! ONLY THE OTHER GODS OF ASGARD THEMSELVES ARE EQUAL TO YOU IN POWER!

SO! NOW HEAR MY WORDS! EVERY LIVING THING HAS PLEDGED TO PROTECT BALDER-- ODIN HAS MADE HIM **INVINCIBLE!** AND YET, HE MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN **SOME-THING!!** HAS HE?? HAS HE??

YES!! THERE IS **ONE** LIVING THING WHICH ODIN OVERLOOKED!! THE **TINY MISTLETOE** MADE NO SUCH PLEDGE!



HAA! THAT WAS THE KNOWLEDGE I SOUGHT!! NOW, ALL I NEED DO IS FIND ONE SMALL CLUMP OF MISTLETOE...



...AND, WITH IT, I SHALL REMOVE THE UNSUSPECTING BALDER FROM HIS PLACE IN ODIN'S HEART-- FOREVER!



WITHIN MINUTES, THE GLOATING LOKI ORDERS ONE OF HIS SLAVE TROLLS TO FASHION A BLOW-GUN AND A DART OUT OF THE MISTLETOE...

REMEMBER, CLEVER ONE-- IT MUST BE CAPABLE OF PIERCING THE VERY ARMOR WHICH BALDER WEARS!

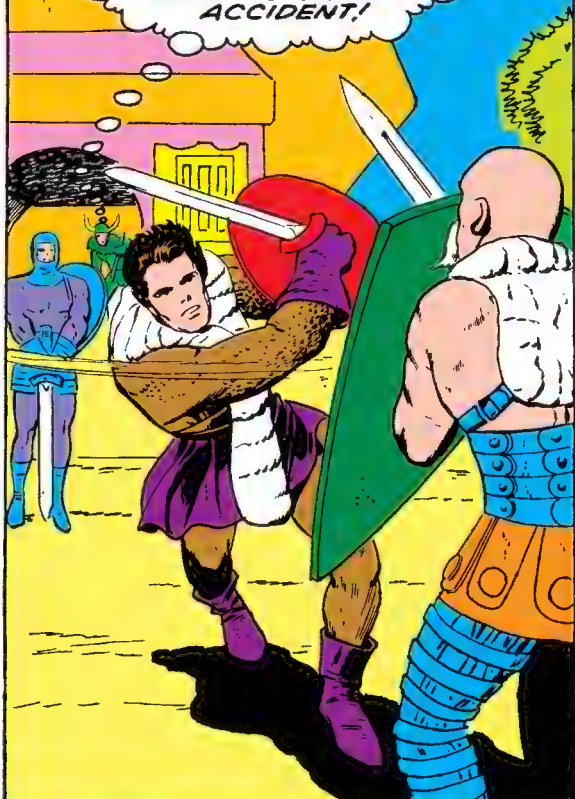
FEAR NOT, LOKI! IT **SHALL** BE!

THE NEXT DAY, AS BALDER THE BRAVE JOUSTS ON THE COMBAT PRACTICE FIELD, AN EVIL FIGURE WATCHES, WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT--TO STRIKE!

I WILL ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE-- SO I MUST NOT FAIL ON MY FIRST TRY!



TO PREVENT SUSPICION FROM FALLING UPON ME, I MUST MAKE IT LOOK LIKE SOME SORT OF BATTLE ACCIDENT!



AFTER LONG, TENSE MOMENTS OF PATIENT OBSERVING, LOKI FINALLY GETS HIS OPPORTUNITY, AS BRAVE BALDER STUMBLES IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID STEPPING UPON A NEARBY CATERPILLAR!



NOW!!



BUT, BEFORE THE FATAL MISSILE CAN BE EJECTED, THE ENTIRE BLOW GUN ERUPTS INTO FLAME AND FALLS FROM LOKI'S STARTLED FINGERS!!

WHAT ACCURSED
WITCHERY IS
THIS??!

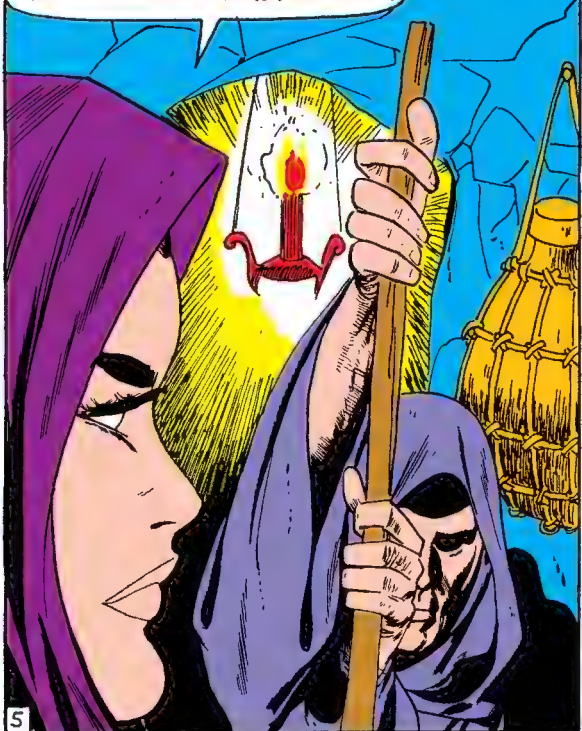


IT IS **I** WHO AM RESPONSIBLE, EVIL ONE! YOU MADE ONE CARELESS MISTAKE--YOU FORGOT THAT ODIN HAD PLEDGED **ALL** WHO LIVE TO GUARD BALDER'S LIFE--AND I, TOO, TOOK THAT SOLEMN PLEDGE!

BLAST YOU, FEMALE!! YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS!!



KEEP STIRRING YOUR WITCHES' BREW, MY AGED ONE! THE NEXT TIME LOKI RETURNS, THE NORN QUEEN SHALL BE **READY** FOR HIM!!



AND SO WE LEAVE LOKI WITH HIS SINISTER THOUGHTS AND MENACING PLANS! BUT, NO MATTER HOW WELL THE GOD OF MISCHIEF MAY PLAN, HE IS DESTINED EVER TO LEARN THAT **FATE SAVES HER SMILE FOR THE NOBLE SOUL AND THE PURE IN HEART!**

THOUGH DANGER MAY LURK IN THE SHADOWS AROUND ME, I FEAR IT NOT! FOR I AM ARMED WITH TRUST, AND FORTIFIED WITH FAITH!



The END

NEXT ISSUE... PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A NEVER-TO-BE FORGOTTEN EXPERIENCE AS WE TAKE YOU ON A STARTLING JOURNEY TO-- THE LAND OF THE TROLLS!!!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY WITH

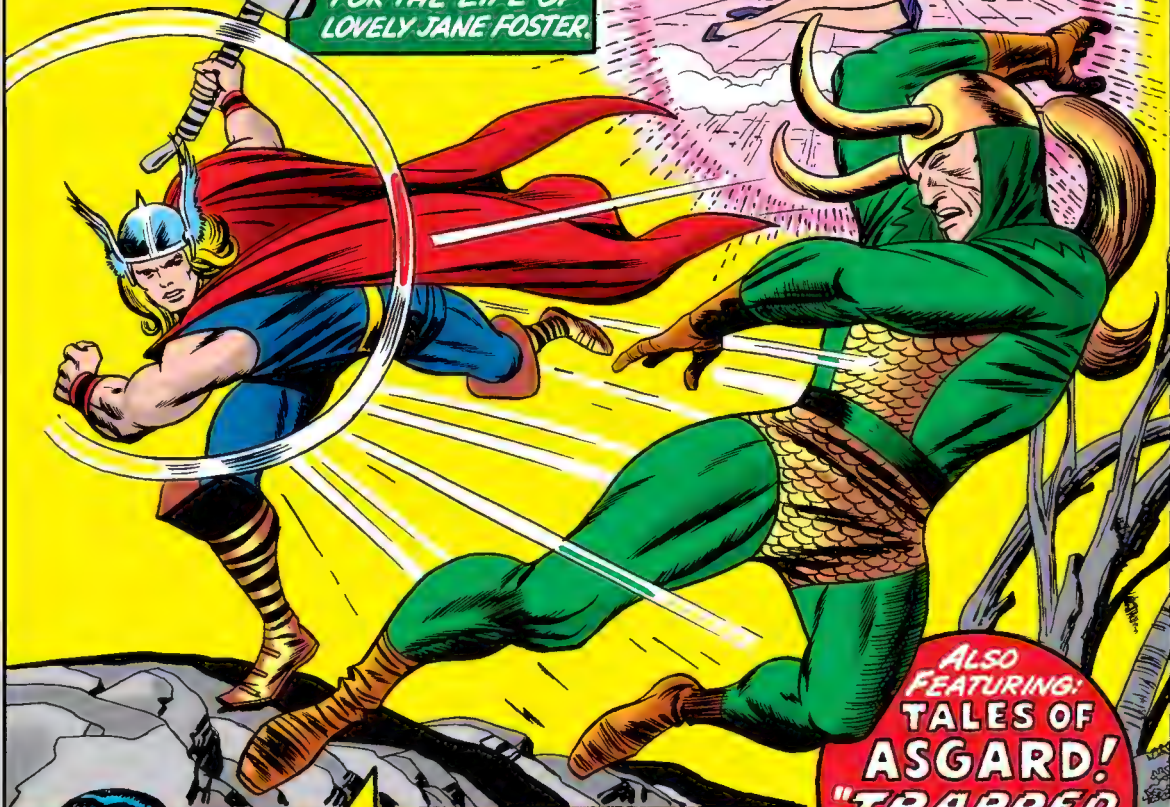


THE MIGHTY THOR

108
SEPT.

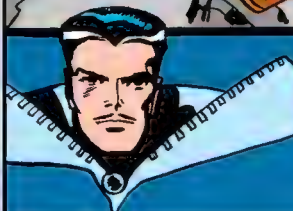
the MIGHTY THOR,
POSSIBLY THE
HANDSOMEST,
MOST NOBLE
SUPER-HERO
OF ALL
TIME!

SEE THOR BATTLE
LOKI!
PRINCE OF EVIL,
FOR THE LIFE OF
LOVELY JANE FOSTER.



ALSO
FEATURING:
TALES OF
ASGARD!
"TRAPPED
BY THE
TROLLS!"

GUEST STARRING THE WORLD'S
MOST MYSTERIOUS MORTAL:
Dr. STRANGE,
MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC!



THE MIGHTY THOR! "AT THE MERCY OF LOKI, PRINCE OF EVIL!"

WHAT IS *THIS*?
THE MIGHTY THUNDER
GOD THREATENING THE
PEOPLE OF NEW YORK
WITH HIS HAMMER??
THERE MUST BE A
REASON!
BUT
WHAT???

GUEST-STARRING:
DOCTOR STRANGE,
MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC!

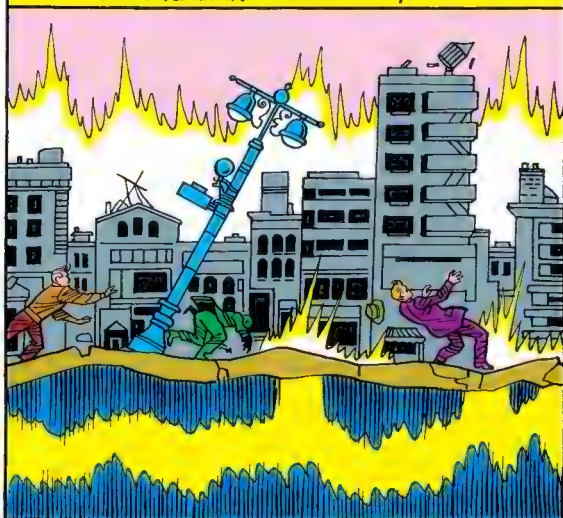


WRITTEN BY.....STAN LEE, THE IDOL OF MILLIONS!
ILLUSTRATED BY...JACK KIRBY, THE TOAST OF THE TOWN!
INKED BY.....CHIC STONE, THE MAN OF THE HOUR!
LETTERED BY.....ART SIMEK, THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE!

WHILE THE ONLOOKERS WATCH IN MUTE, UNCOMPREHENDING AWE, THE MIGHTY THOR SLAMS HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER DOWN UPON THE PAVEMENT WITH AN IMPACT FELT HALF-WAY ACROSS THE STATE!!



MOVING AT THE ALMOST INDESCRIBABLE SPEED OF SOUND, THE FORCE OF IMPACT TRAVELS DOWN UNDER THE ROADBED FOR MILES IN A PREDETERMINED DIRECTION, UNTIL --

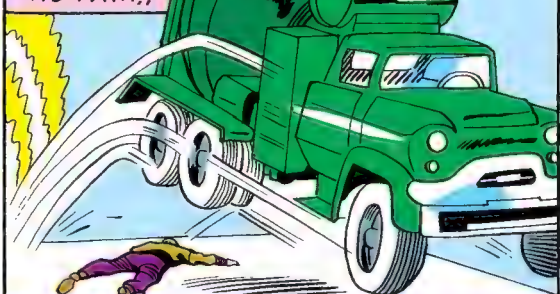


--IT REACHES ONE CERTAIN STREET CORNER--A CORNER WHICH THOR HAD SEEN WHILE FLYING ABOVE THE CITY, BUT WHICH HE KNEW HE COULD NEVER REACH IN TIME!



BILLY! LOOK OUT FOR THAT RUNAWAY TRUCK!!

AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, THE VIBRATION OF THOR'S HAMMER BLAST REACHES THE SPOT, CAUSING THE CAREENING, DRIVERLESS TRUCK TO LITERALLY JUMP INTO THE AIR, MISSING THE BOY WHO HAD BEEN IN ITS PATH!!

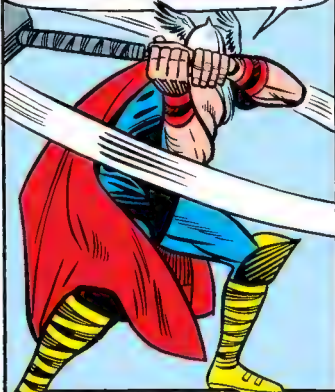


THE EVENT YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE IN THE TOTAL ELAPSED TIME OF ONE AND ONE-FIFTH SECONDS-- TIME ENOUGH FOR THE TRIGGER-FAST MIND OF THE THUNDER GOD TO PLAN AND EXECUTE HIS LIFE-SAVING ACTION!

IT IS FORTUNATE I WAS ABLE TO ACT IN TIME! BETTER A BROKEN PAVEMENT THAN AN INJURED HUMAN BEING!



AT ANY RATE, I SHALL REIMBURSE THE CITY FOR THE DAMAGE I'VE DONE BY USING THE EMERGENCY FUND WHICH THE AVENGERS KEEP FOR SUCH A PURPOSE!*

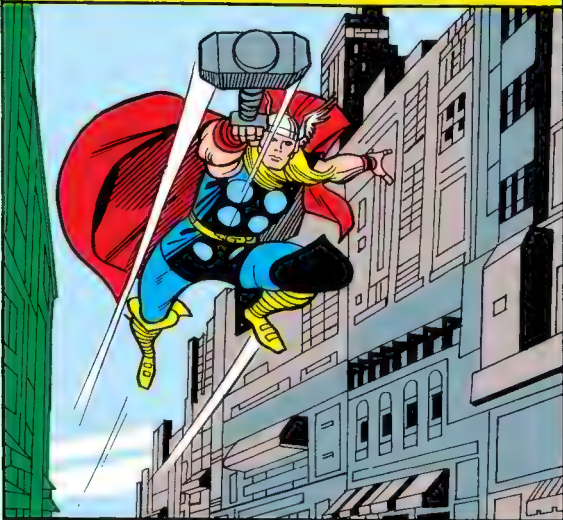


WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THOR HAD A REASON FOR USING THAT HAMMER OF HIS! BOY! WHAT A COP ON THE BEAT HE'D MAKE!



*THOR IS, OF COURSE, ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS AVENGERS!--EDITORS.

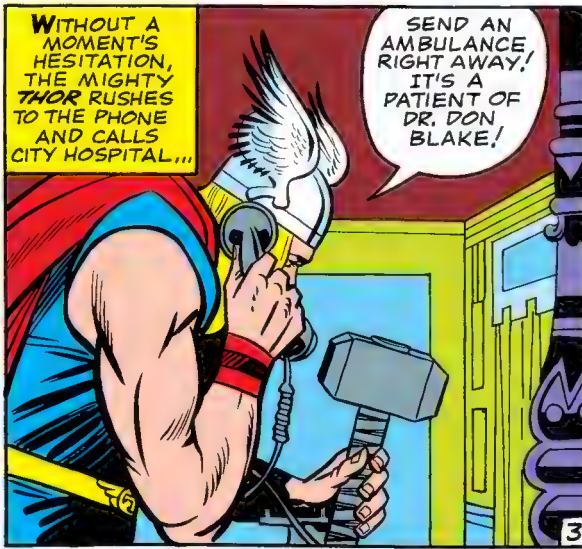
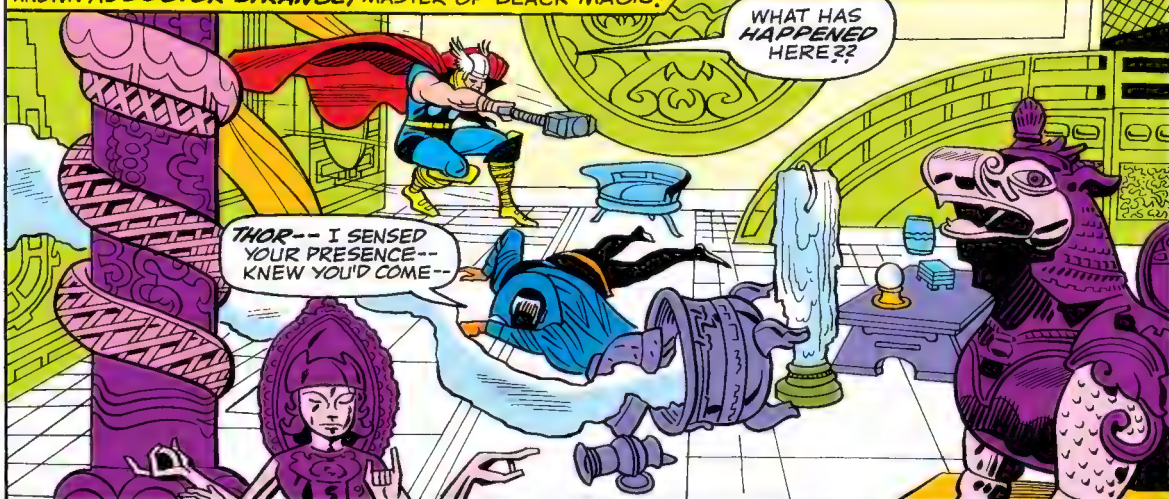
MINUTES LATER, THE MOST DRAMATIC, MOST HEROIC, MOST NOBLE OF ALL COSTUMED ADVENTURERS IS AGAIN HURTLING THRU THE CITY, EVER ALERT--EVER VIGILANT--



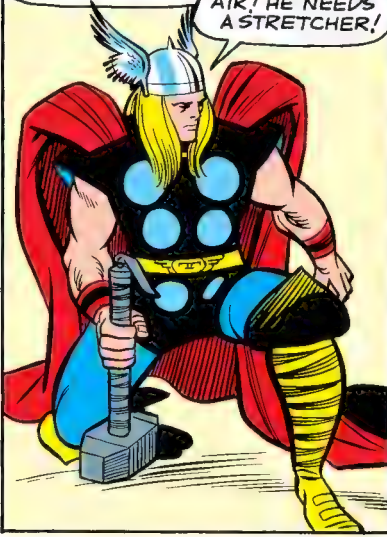
--AND, ONCE AGAIN HE SENSES ANOTHER LIVING BEING IN DIRE NEED OF HELP!



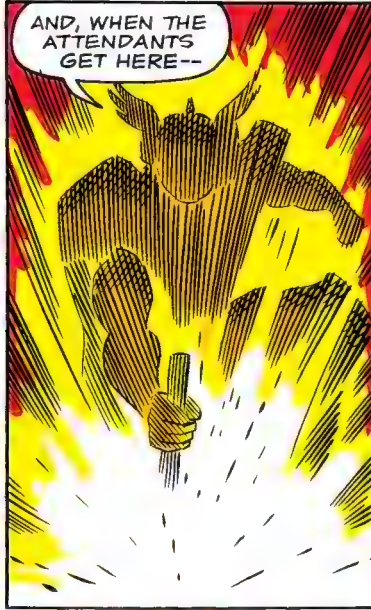
FOLLOWING THE MENTAL SUMMONS, THOR CAREENS INTO THE GREENWICH VILLAGE RETREAT OF THE MAN KNOWN AS DOCTOR STRANGE, MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC!



THE AMBULANCE WILL BE HERE WITHIN MINUTES! HE IS TOO WEAK FOR ME TO CARRY THRU THE AIR! HE NEEDS A STRETCHER!



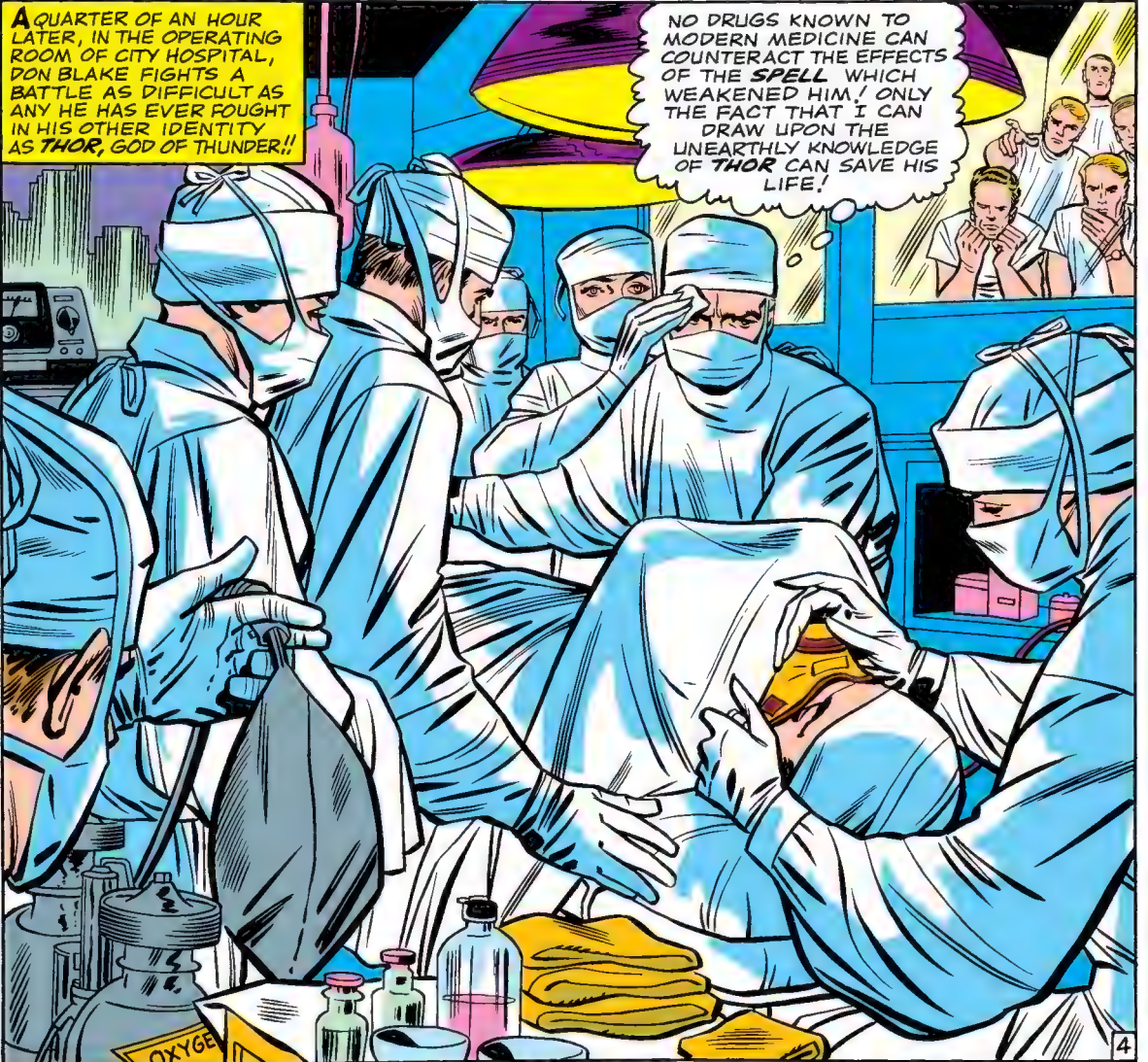
AND, WHEN THE ATTENDANTS GET HERE--



-- THEY WILL BE MET BY DR. BLAKE!! I HEAR THE SIRENS NOW!!



A QUARTER OF AN HOUR LATER, IN THE OPERATING ROOM OF CITY HOSPITAL, DON BLAKE FIGHTS A BATTLE AS DIFFICULT AS ANY HE HAS EVER FOUGHT IN HIS OTHER IDENTITY AS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER!!



NO DRUGS KNOWN TO MODERN MEDICINE CAN COUNTERACT THE EFFECTS OF THE *SPELL* WHICH WEAKENED HIM! ONLY THE FACT THAT I CAN DRAW UPON THE UNEARTHLY KNOWLEDGE OF *THOR* CAN SAVE HIS LIFE!

BUT THEN, AT THE MOST CRUCIAL MOMENT OF THE DELICATE OPERATION, DON BLAKE HEARS A CALL-- A CALL WHICH CAN BE HEARD BY HIS EARS ALONE-- FROM THE PLACE KNOWN AS-- **ASGARD!!**

HEAR ME... MY SON...

NO!! NOT NOW!! I CAN'T STOP NOW!!



AND, IN THE HOME OF THE GODS-- SO FAR FROM US THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE THE DISTANCE IN EARTHLY TERMS-- ODIN, LORD OF ASGARD, ONCE AGAIN SUMMONS HIS SON-- **THOR!!**

WHY DOES THOR NOT REPLY TO ME?? HE KNOWS THAT NONE MAY IGNORE A SUMMONS FROM ODIN-- NOT EVEN THE SON WHOM I HOLD SO DEAR!



HE HAS **NOT** ANSWERED! BY ALL THE **FURIES**, I'LL HOLD HIM **ACCOUNTABLE** FOR THIS!! THERE IS NO TIME TO FIND HIM NOW, FOR I MUST LEAD MY WARRIORS INTO BATTLE-- BUT WHEN I RETURN-- THE THUNDER GOD SHALL FEEL MY **WRATH!!!**



SO GREAT IS ODIN'S ANGER-- SO VIOLENT HIS RAGE-- THAT THE VERY POWER OF HIS EMOTION CAUSES A SUDDEN ELECTRICAL STORM TO ERUPT OVER THE AREA HE CONCENTRATED UPON--



--A STORM WHICH SUDDENLY AFFECTS THE LIGHTING IN THE OPERATING ROOM OF CITY HOSPITAL!

THE POWER IS FAILING!!

WE CAN'T STOP NOW!!



BUT THEN, THE COOL COMMANDING VOICE OF DR. BLAKE CUTS THRU THE SUDDEN PANIC WITH THE IRON RING OF AUTHORITY!

CUT IN EMERGENCY LIGHTS! REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE!



I'M GOING TO **SAVE** THIS MAN-- NO MATTER **WHAT!**



WHILE, NOT SUSPECTING THE REASON FOR THOR'S FAILURE TO ANSWER HIS SUMMONS, A RAGING, WRATHFUL ODIN RACES INTO BATTLE WITH BUT ONE BURNING THOUGHT IN MIND--!

WHEN I RETURN, THOR SHALL ANSWER TO ME!! EVEN THOUGH HE BE MY FAVORED SON--

--ONLY ONE MAY BE LORD OF ASGARD, AND THAT ONE IS--! AND EVER SHALL BE-- ODIN!!



BUT, A PAIR OF CRUEL, UNBLINKING EYES WATCH THE NOBLE ODIN'S DEPARTURE WITH GRIM SATISFACTION --THE EYES OF THOR'S ARCH-ENEMY-- **LOKI**, GOD OF EVIL!

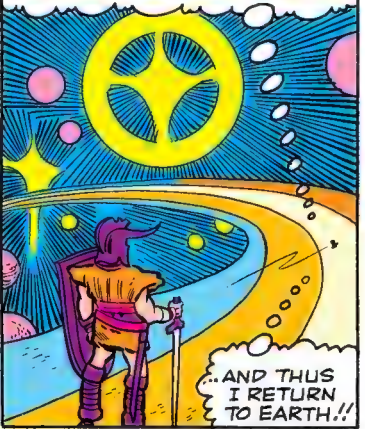


SUDDENLY, THE CRAFTY IMMORTAL TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO A TINY BEE...

NOW, AT LAST, I CAN ATTEMPT WHAT I NEVER DARED DO WHILE ODIN WAS NEAR--!



HEIMDALL, GUARDIAN OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE, WHOSE EYES ARE KEENEST IN THE UNIVERSE, WOULD NEVER DREAM OF SUSPECTING A PASSING BEE...

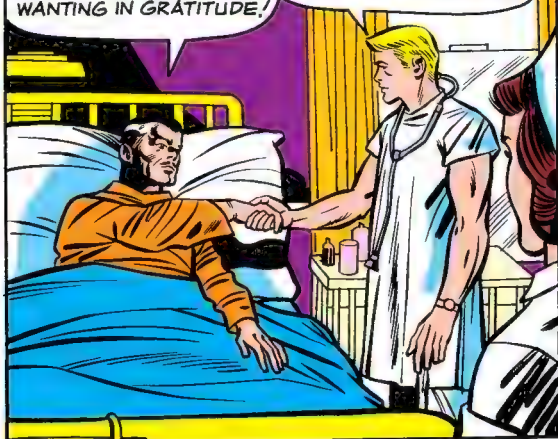


...AND THUS I RETURN TO EARTH!!

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN A PRIVATE HOSPITAL ROOM...

YOU SAVED MY LIFE, DOCTOR BLAKE! YOU SHALL NOT FIND ME WANTING IN GRATITUDE!

TO A PHYSICIAN, THE SAVING OF A LIFE IS ITS OWN REWARD, SIR!

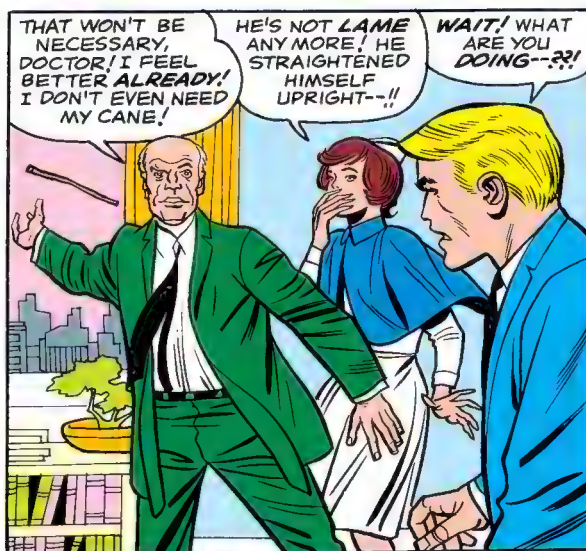
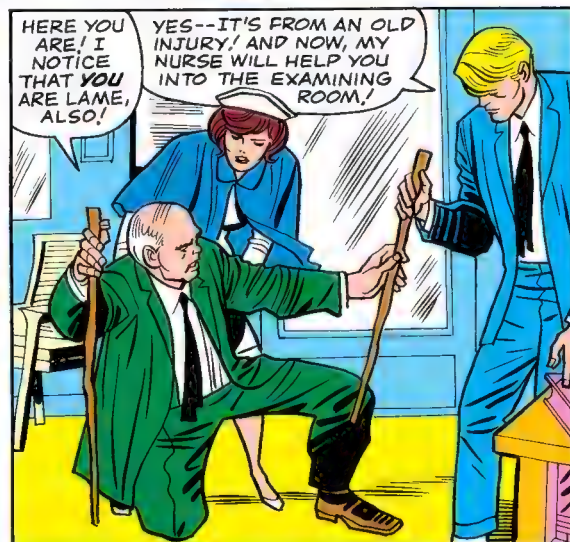
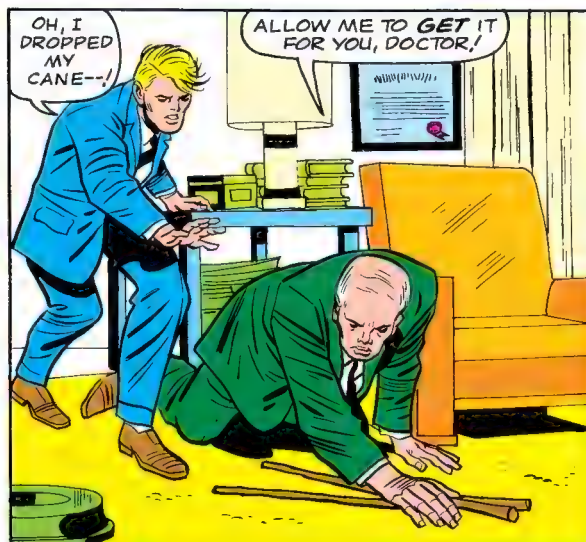
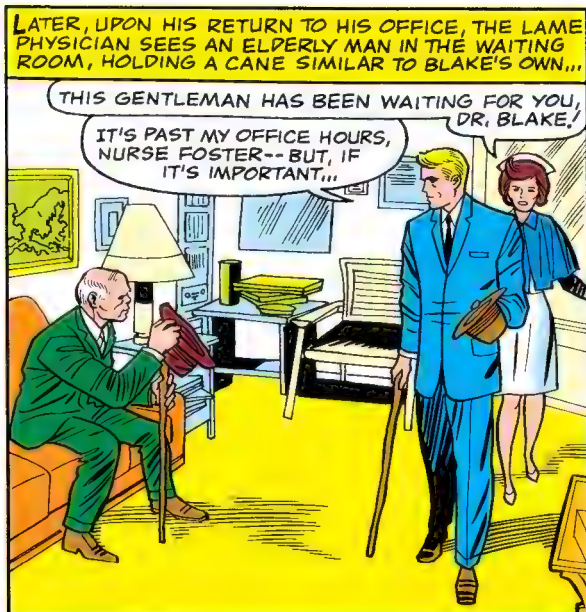


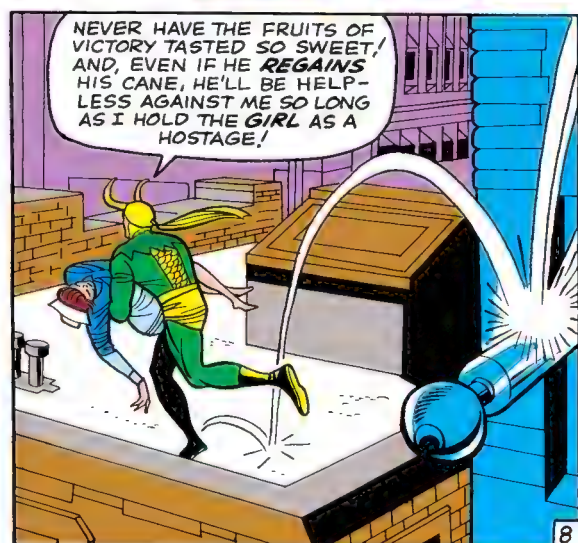
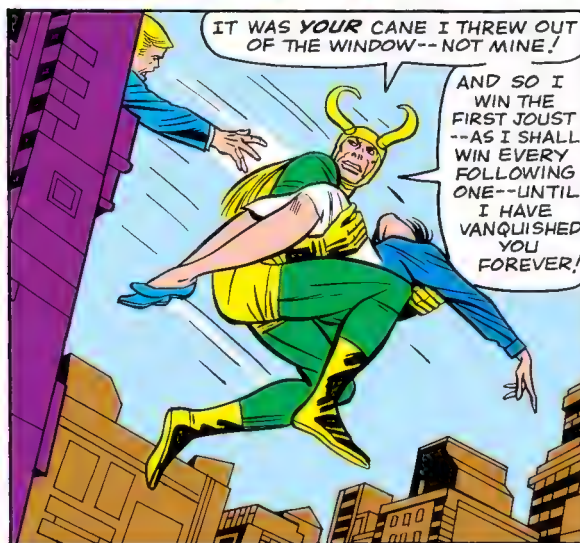
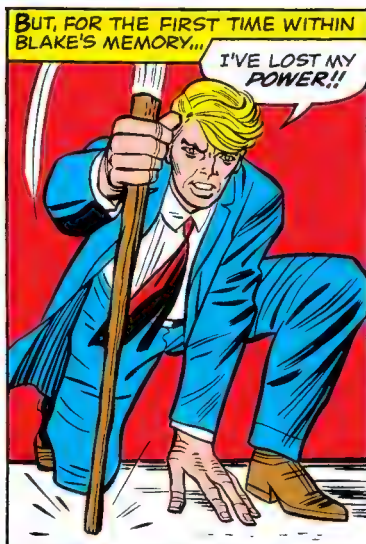
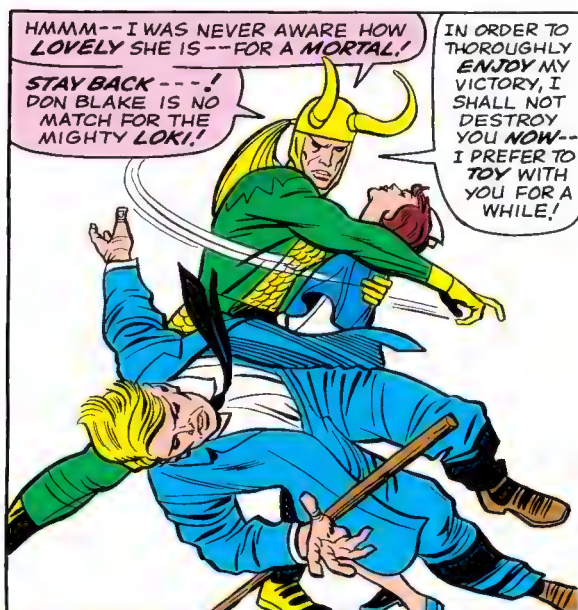
I UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR --BUT PLEASE REMEMBER --I AM NOT WITHOUT CERTAIN POWERS OF MY OWN...

...IF I CAN EVER BE OF SERVICE TO YOU, YOU MUST GIVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPAY YOU, IN SOME SMALL MEASURE!

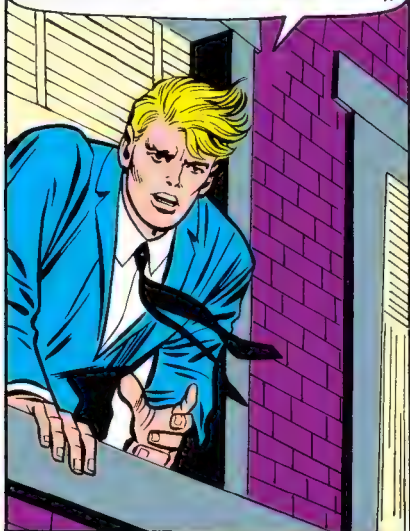


I SHALL, DR. STRANGE --AND THANK YOU!





HE'S RUN OFF WITH JANE!! AND I'M **POWERLESS** AGAINST HIM UNLESS I CAN RETRIEVE MY WALKING STICK!!



IN A MAD, FRANTIC FRENZY, THE VALIANT DOCTOR SCRAMBLES DOWN THE STAIRS, EVEN THOUGH EACH STEP IS SHEER AGONY TO HIS LAME, ACHING LEG...

EVERY SECOND COUNTS! I DARE NOT EVEN STOP TO WAIT FOR THE ELEVATOR! I **MUST** FIND MY CANE!



BUT, UPON BREATHLESSLY REACHING THE STREET...

IT'S GONE!!

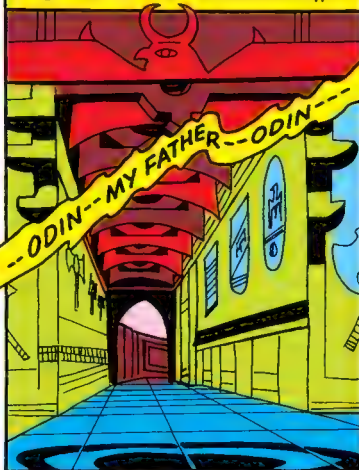


DESPERATE, DON BLAKE USES THE ONE SUPERNATURAL ABILITY HE POSSESSES IN HIS MORTAL FORM...

I'LL MENTALLY CONTACT ASGARD!! I MUST BEG **ODIN'S** HELP!

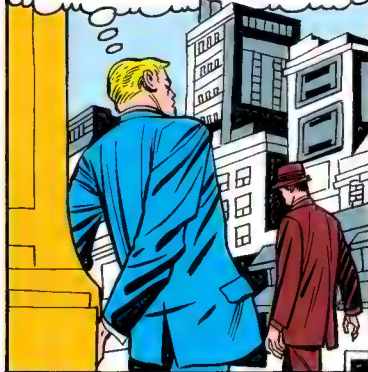


BUT, THE HALLS OF ODIN'S PALACE ARE EMPTY!! THERE ARE NONE TO RECEIVE THE URGENT MENTAL SUMMONS!!



NOT KNOWING THAT ODIN AND HIS COURT HAVE GONE OFF TO BATTLE, THE BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED PHYSICIAN REACHES A FALSE CONCLUSION...

ODIN HAS IGNORED ME! HE'S **FORSAKEN** ME! WHAT-EVER I DO-- I MUST DO **ALONE**, AS THE MORTAL DON BLAKE!



AND THEN, SUDDENLY, THE LAME DOCTOR **REMEMBERS** SOMETHING--AND, WITHOUT A SECOND'S HESITATION, HE HAILS A PASSING CAB--

CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL--AND STEP ON IT!!

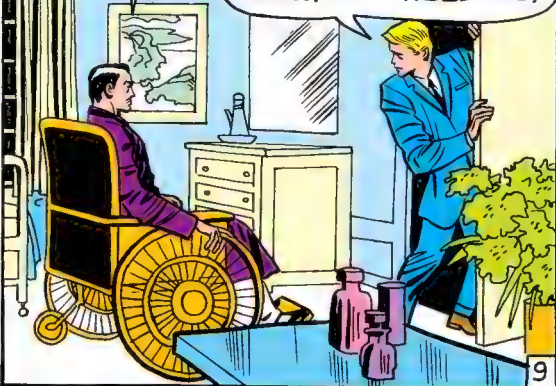
IN **THIS** TRAFFIC?? YOU'D GET THERE FASTER ON A **POGO STICK**! BUT I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN!



DESPITE THE HEAVY TRAFFIC, THE DRIVER MAKES RECORD TIME, SPURRED ON BY BLAKE'S URGING, UNTIL...

BLAKE!! WHAT'S **WRONG??**

DR. STRANGE-- YOU TOLD ME TO CONTACT YOU IF I EVER NEEDED HELP! I-I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD HAPPEN SO **SOON**, BUT I **NEED** YOU!



I CAN'T TELL YOU **TOO** MUCH-- BUT MY **WALKING STICK** IS GONE! I MUST **FIND** IT! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

YOU NEED EXPLAIN NO MORE! YOUR MOTIVES ARE YOUR **OWN** AFFAIR! I CAN SENSE HOW DESPERATE YOU ARE! STAND BACK-- DO NOT BE SHOCKED BY WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE!

THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF DON BLAKE, DR. STRANGE'S BODY SEEMS TO GO LIMP IN ITS WHEEL CHAIR AS HIS **ECTOPLASMIC FORM** FLOATS OUT OF ITS MORTAL SHELL...

WAIT UNTIL I CONTACT YOU!

TO THE MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC, WHILE IN HIS SPIRIT FORM, THE BOUNDARIES OF TIME AND SPACE, AND THE LAW OF GRAVITY, ARE MEANINGLESS! LIKE A SILENT GHOST HE PASSES THRU THE HOSPITAL WALL...

FOR LONG MOMENTS HE WAFTS OVER THE UNSEEING CITY, AS THE POWER OF HIS BEWITCHED **AMULET** LEADS HIM CLOSER AND CLOSER TO HIS OBJECTIVE, UNTIL...

I CAN SENSE THAT I AM AT THE END OF MY QUEST! MY AMULET'S BEAM, INVISIBLE TO HUMAN EYES, IS MOVING SLOWLY TO MY RIGHT, AND TURNING DOWNWARD...

WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT, THE HOVERING APPARITION RETURNS TO HIS MORTAL FORM AND TELLS DON BLAKE WHAT HE HAS FOUND! AND THEN, MINUTES LATER...

STRANGE WAS **RIGHT!** THOSE VAGRANTS HAVE FOUND MY CANE-- THEY'RE USING IT AS A FISHING ROD! IT MUSTN'T FALL INTO THE WATER--!!!

STOP! BE CAREFUL OF THAT CANE! IT'S **MINE!** I MUST HAVE IT **BACK!**

HEY, LEGGO! YOU SOME KINDA **NUT** OR SOMETHIN'?? I **FOUND** THIS STICK AND I'M **KEEPIN'** IT!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT TROUBLE-MAKER, CHARLIE!

THEY DON'T **UNDERSTAND!** THEY'RE SPOILING FOR A **FIGHT!** I'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING!

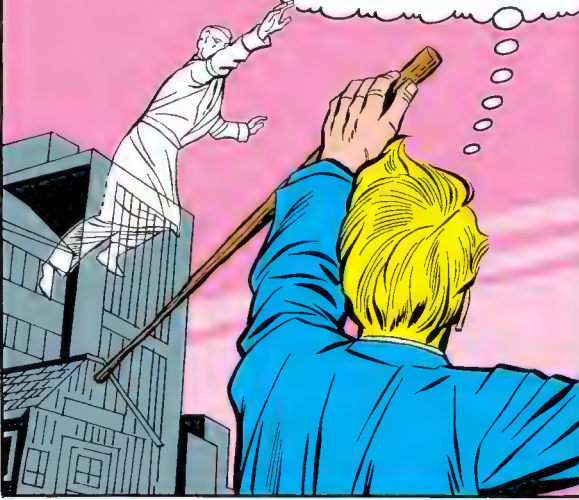
BUT, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE TWO VAGRANTS SEE ANOTHER FORM NEAR THEM--A **FLOATING, ETHEREAL, GHOSTLIKE FORM!** AND THEN...

LET'S GET **OUTTA** HERE, CHARLIE!! THE PLACE IS **HAUNTED!!**

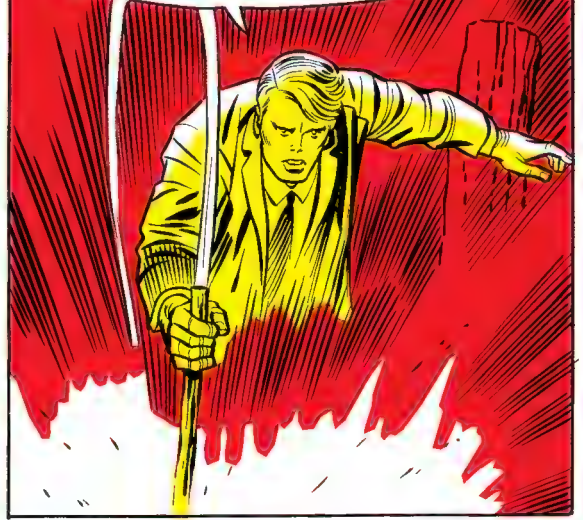
HE CAN **HAVE** HIS BLASTED CANE! I AIN'T CARRYIN' **ANYTHING** THAT'LL SLOW ME DOWN WHEN I **RUN!**

AND, MINUTES LATER...

HE'S BEGINNING TO FADE AWAY! HE'S RETURNING TO HIS PHYSICAL FORM, BACK AT THE HOSPITAL! HE CAN'T HELP ME ANY LONGER!



NOW, THERE'S ONLY **ONE** WHO CAN HELP ME-- ONLY **ONE** WHO CAN FIND LOKI-- AND RESCUE JANE FOSTER FROM HIM--



WHEREVER YOU ARE, LOKI-- IN WHATEVER PART OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE-- LOOK TO YOUR DEFENSES!! FOR **NOTHING** CAN SAVE YOU NOW-- FROM THE VENGEANCE OF **THOR!!**



I NEED **HEIGHT!!** I'LL SCAN THE CITY FROM HIGH ABOVE-- NOTHING THAT MOVES BELOW WILL ESCAPE THE THUNDER GOD'S NOTICE!!

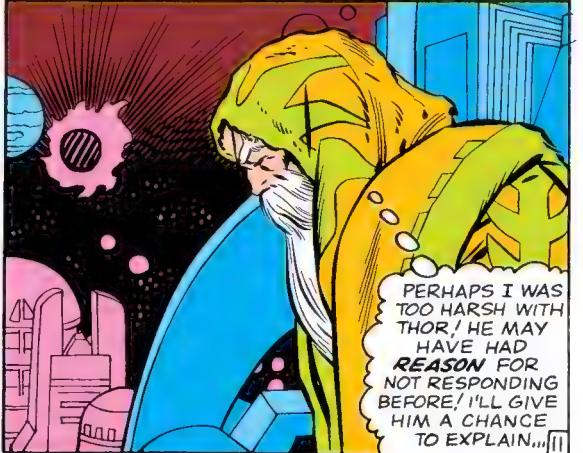


MEANWHILE, IN ASGARD, ODIN AND HIS VICTORIOUS LEGIONS RETURN, FLUSHED WITH VICTORY...

AND NOW TO RETURN TO THE MATTER OF **THOR!!**

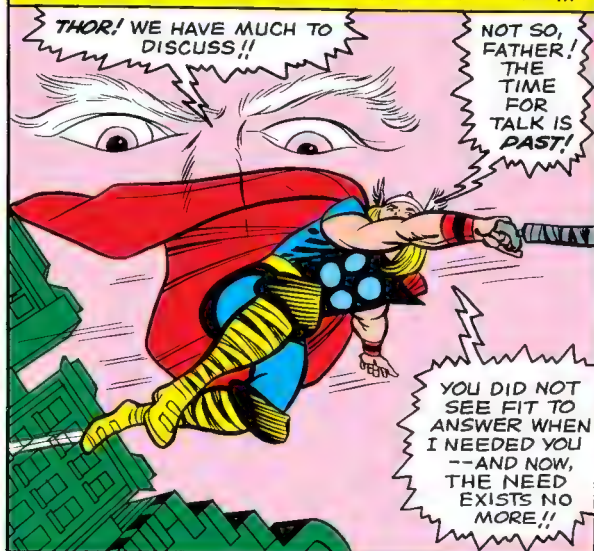


DONNING HIS ROBE OF CONQUEST, THE NOBLE LORD OF ASGARD SENDS A MENTAL CALL THRU THE ENDLESS GALAXIES-- FAR OUT INTO SPACE-- TOWARDS THE PLANET **EARTH...**

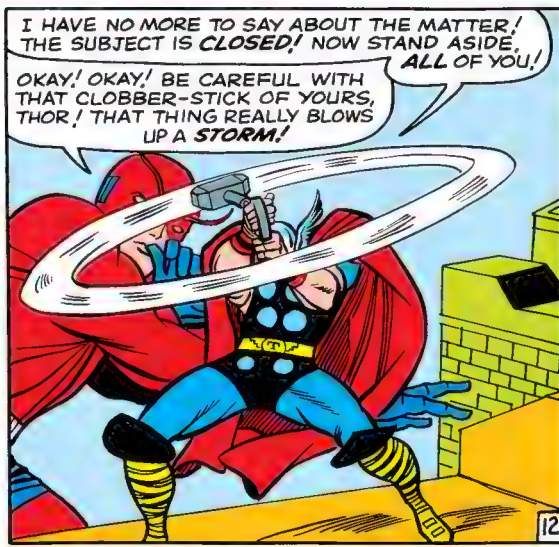


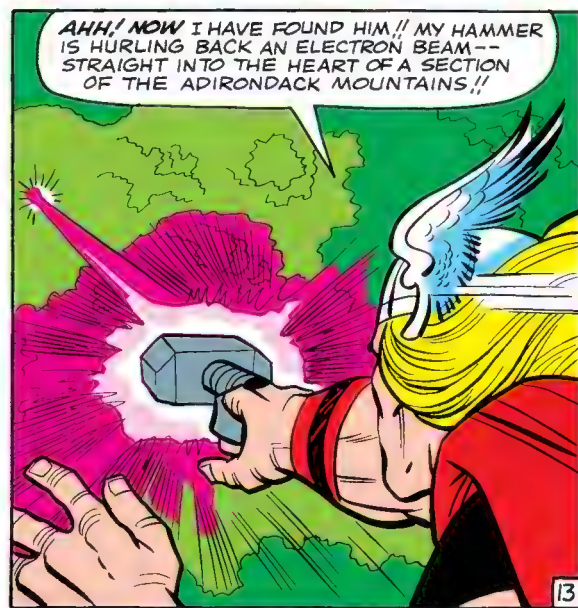
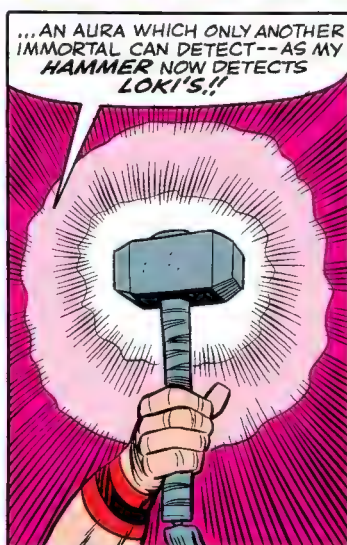
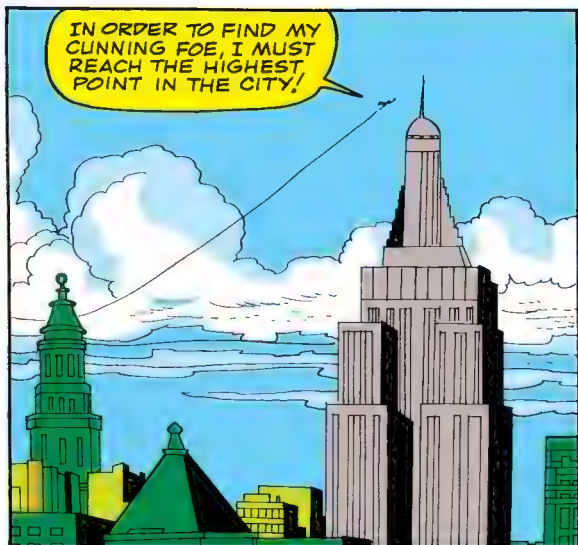
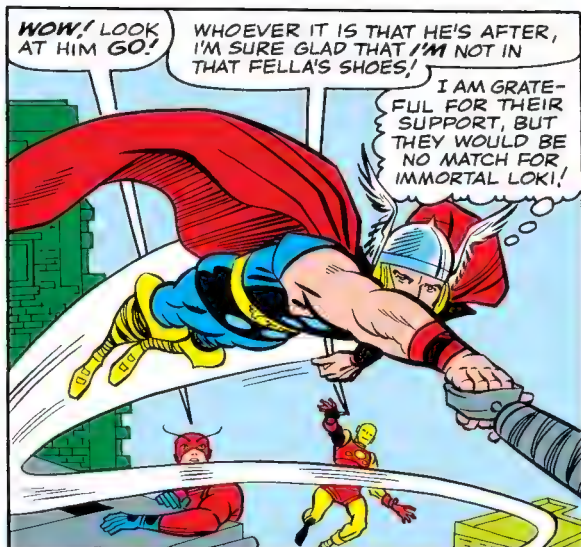
PERHAPS I WAS TOO HARSH WITH THOR! HE MAY HAVE HAD **REASON** FOR NOT RESPONDING BEFORE! I'LL GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN...!!

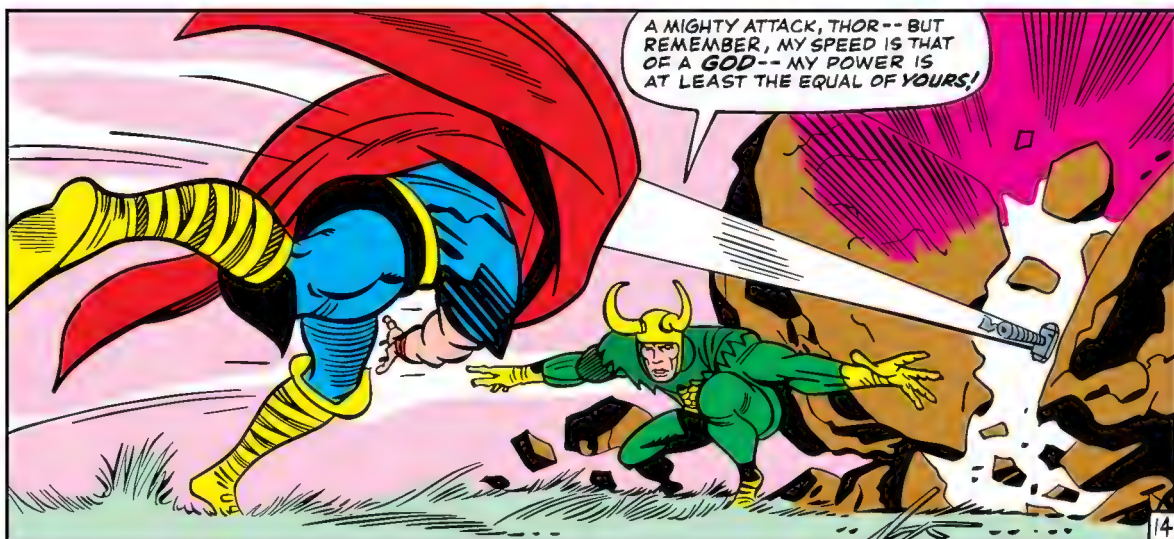
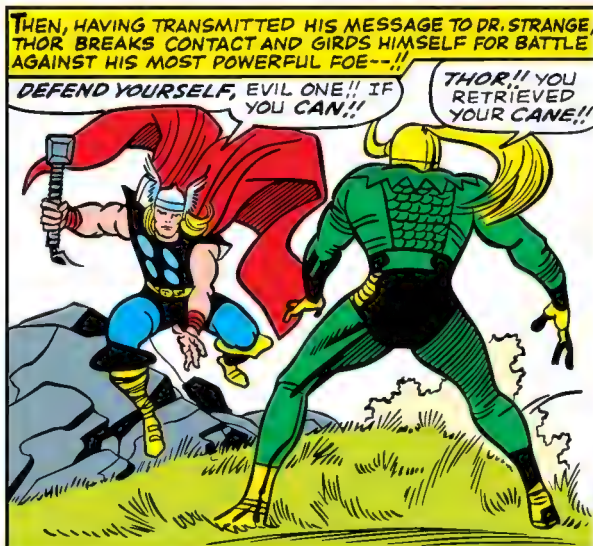
BUT, ONCE AGAIN, AN IRONIC MISUNDERSTANDING OCCURS BETWEEN ODIN AND THE MIGHTY THOR...

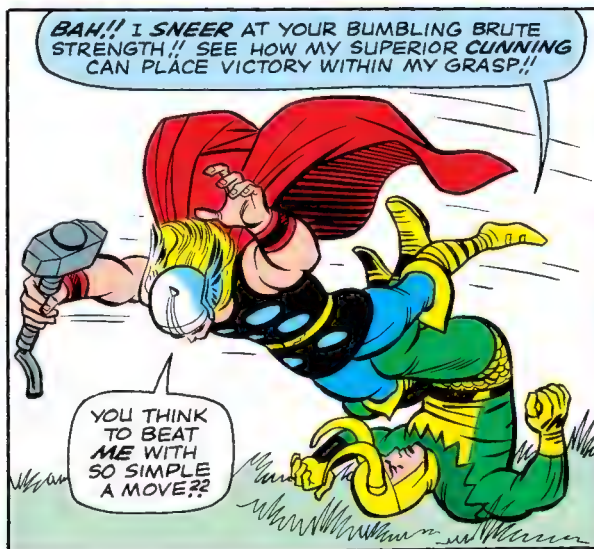
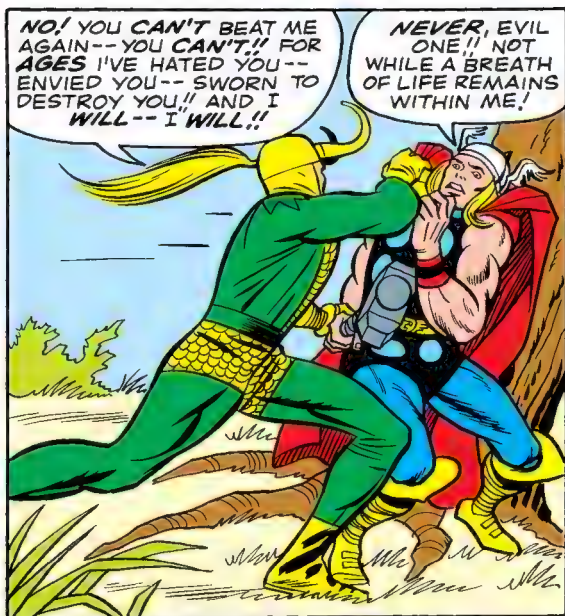


BUT, NO SOONER DOES NOBLE ODIN CUT OFF HIS MENTAL COMMUNICATION WITH HIS SPIRITED SON, THEN THREE OTHER FIGURES APPEAR-- THREE EARTHLY FIGURES--ALL EQUALLY COLORFUL!











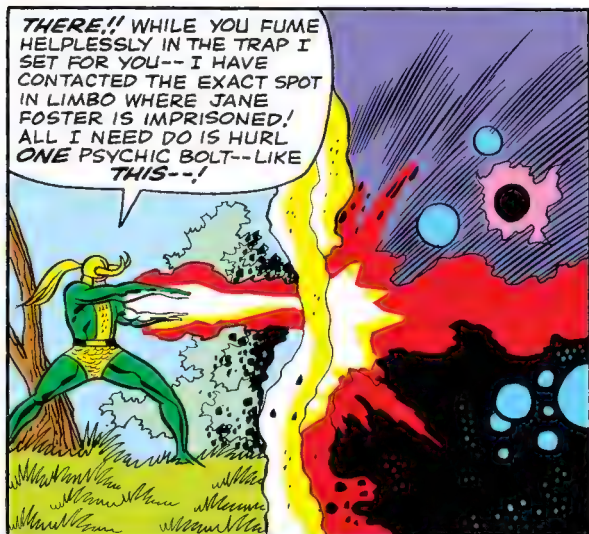
AND **NOW**-- BEFORE YOU CAN FREE YOURSELF, I SHALL MAKE YOU PAY THE PRICE FOR DEFYING LOKI!! I SHALL PROJECT MY POWER DEEP INTO **LIMBO**-- AND IT WILL SPELL THE **END** OF JANE FOSTER!

LOKI-- IF ANY HARM COMES TO THAT GIRL--YOU'LL SPEND ALL OF ETERNITY **REGRETTING** IT!

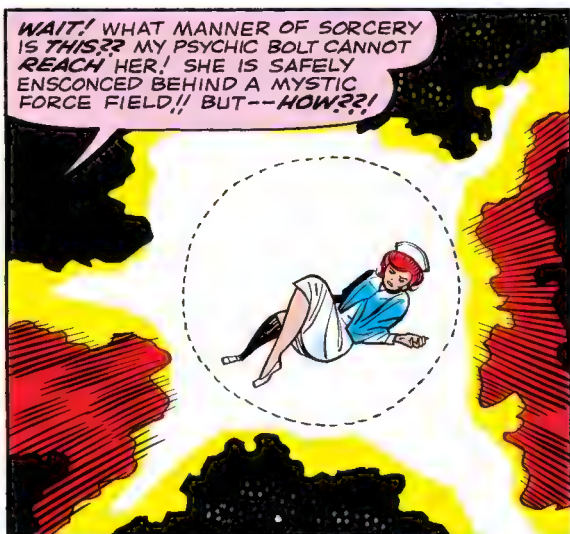


YOUR EMPTY THREATS DO NOT BOTHER **ME**! AND NOW-- I SHALL BRIDGE THE DIMENSIONS--

--IF I CANNOT HARM YOU, HARMING THE GIRL YOU LOVE IS THE **SECOND** BEST THING!



THERE!! WHILE YOU FUME HELPLESSLY IN THE TRAP I SET FOR YOU-- I HAVE CONTACTED THE EXACT SPOT IN LIMBO WHERE JANE FOSTER IS IMPRISONED! ALL I NEED DO IS HURL ONE PSYCHIC BOLT--LIKE **THIS**--!



WAIT! WHAT MANNER OF SORCERY IS **THIS**? MY PSYCHIC BOLT CANNOT **REACH** HER! SHE IS SAFELY ENSCONCED BEHIND A MYSTIC FORCE FIELD!! BUT--**HOW**??!



FOR THE ANSWER TO LOKI'S STARTLED QUESTION, LET US PEER INTO A DARKENED HOSPITAL ROOM, WHERE WE FIND...

THE POWER OF MY **AMULET** IS PROTECTING THE GIRL... BUT, FOR HOW LONG??



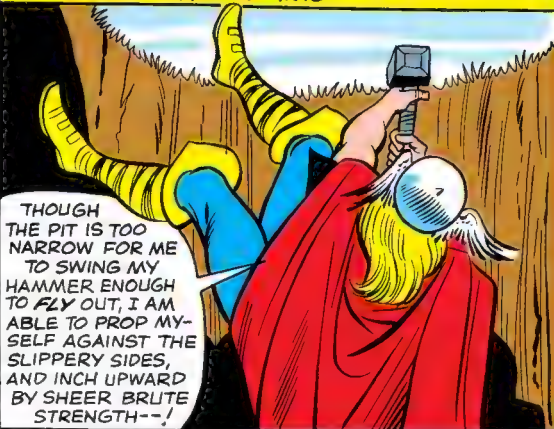
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT SUPER-NATURAL FORCE I AM BATTLING, THOUGH IT IS THE MOST POWERFUL, THE MOST AWESOME I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED!



BUT, DESPITE THE GRUELLING STRAIN, THE MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC HOLDS FAST--AND FINALLY THE BATTLE ENDS, AS LOKI STOPS HIS MENTAL ASSAULT UPON THE GIRL...

I--DID AS BLAKE REQUESTED!! THE GIRL-- IS **SAFE**!!

AND, THE REASON LOKI HAS CEASED TO BATTER AGAINST THE STRANGE FORCE FIELD IS-- HE HEARS HIS MIGHTY ADVERSARY SLOWLY REACHING THE TOP OF THE SEEMINGLY ESCAPE-PROOF TRAP HE HAD FALLEN INTO--



THOUGH THE PIT IS TOO NARROW FOR ME TO SWING MY HAMMER ENOUGH TO FLY OUT, I AM ABLE TO PROP MYSELF AGAINST THE SLIPPERY SIDES, AND INCH UPWARD BY SHEER BRUTE STRENGTH--!

BUT THEN, THE SOUND OF THOR'S CRASHING, CAREENING, THUNDERING HAMMER DROWNS OUT LOKI'S THREATS-- AS IT BLASTS THRU THE FOREST LIKE A LIVING THING!!



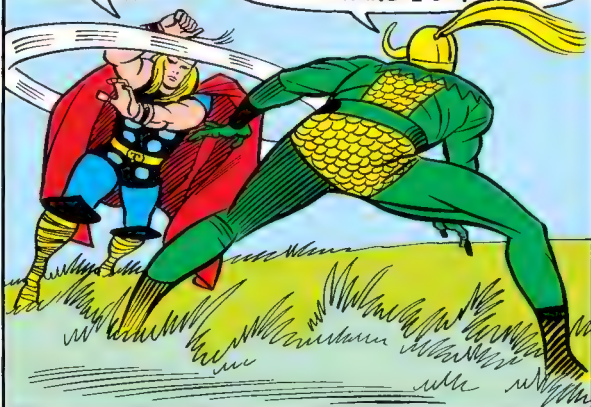
RETURN TO ME, MY ENCHANTED MALLET! I'VE ONLY SECONDS IN WHICH TO ACT-- WHILE LOKI IS DAZED AND CONFUSED!

AND THERE, IN THE LONELY ADIRONDACK FOREST, LOKI FINALLY FEELS THE FULL FORCE OF ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL BLOWS IN THE UNIVERSE-- THE PULVERIZING KNOCKOUT PUNCH OF THE MIGHTY THOR!

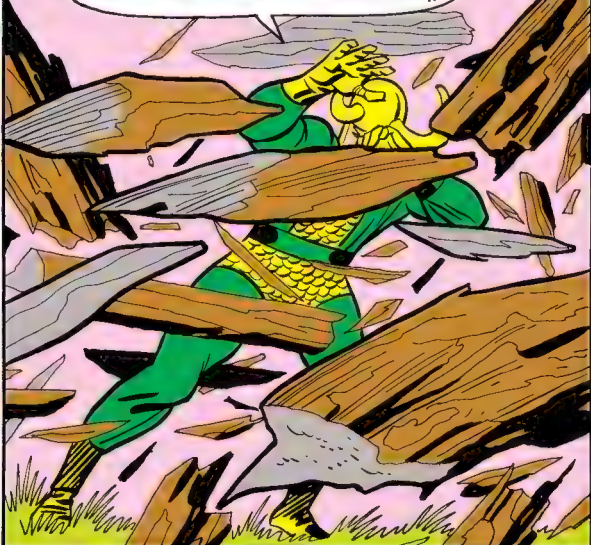


AND NOW, I CAN SWING MY HAMMER --FASTER--AND HARDER THAN EVER BEFORE!!

BLAST YOU, THOR!! DOES NOTHING STOP YOU FOR GOOD?? THOUGH YOU ARE ONE OF THE IMMORTALS, I'LL FIND A WAY TO SLAY YOU YET-- IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!



CAN'T MOVE!! CAN'T SEE!! FLYING CHIPS AND SPLINTERS ALL AROUND ME-- KEEPING ME OFF-BALANCE!!



THOUGH THAT AWESOME BLOW WOULD HAVE SHATTERED A SMALL MOUNTAIN, IT ONLY DAZES THE POWERFUL LOKI-- BUT THAT IS ENOUGH TO ACHIEVE THOR'S OBJECTIVE--!



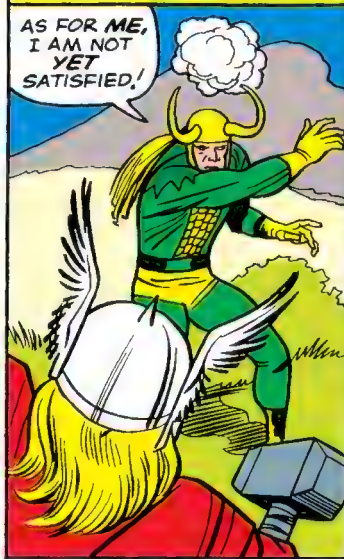
FREE JANE FOSTER FROM LIMBO-- OR FEEL MY WRATH AGAIN!!

NO! ENOUGH-- ENOUGH!

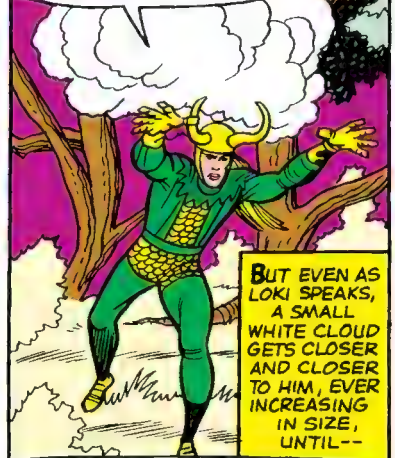
AND THEN, AT A MENTAL COMMAND BY THE EVIL LOKI...



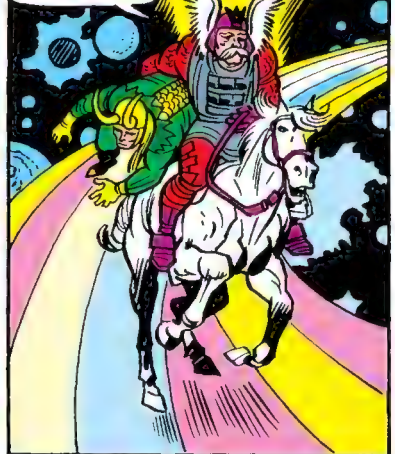
BUT AS THOR MOMENTARILY RELEASES HIS GRIP...



IF MY OWN **STRENGTH** WAS NOT ENOUGH TO VANQUISH YOU-- I'LL BEAT YOU WITH MY **SPELLS!** FOR IN **WIZARDRY**, I AM EASILY YOUR SUPERIOR!!



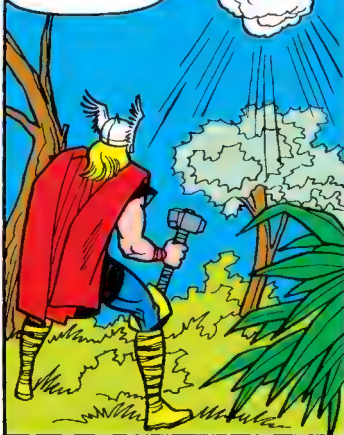
YOUR TIME HAS ALMOST **RUN OUT**, EVIL ONE! **ODIN** COMMANDED ME TO BRING YOU TO HIM-- AND HE GAVE MY ARM ENOUGH POWER TO HOLD YOU NO MATTER **HOW** YOU STRUGGLE TO BREAK FREE!



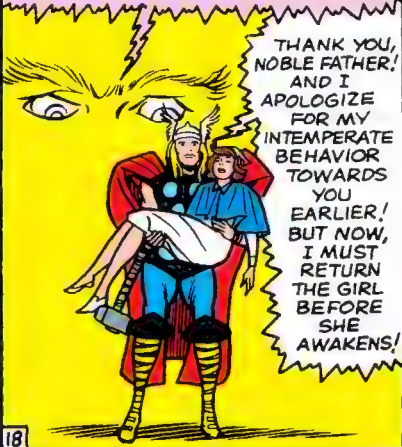
--A MIGHTY MAILED ARM APPEARS THRU THE BILLOWING MIST, SEIZING THE STARTLED IMMORTAL IN AN UNBREAKABLE GRIP--!!



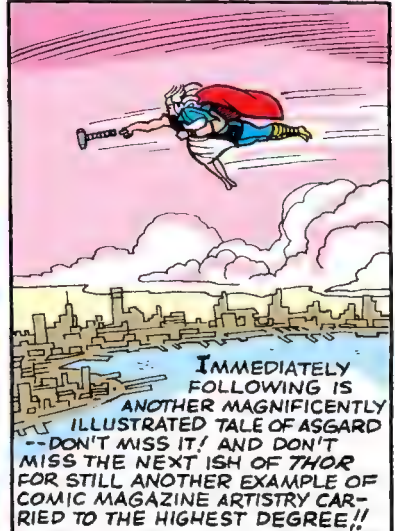
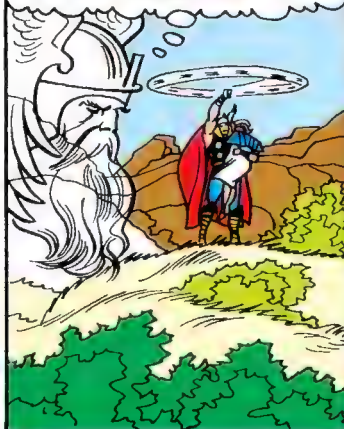
NO! DON'T-- NOT YET! I MIGHT HAVE **BEATEN** HIM IF I HAD MORE TIME!



THOR, MY SON! YOUR BATTLE WITH LOKI WAS A VALIANT ONE! I WITNESSED YOUR COURAGE-- YOUR SKILL! **ODIN** IS PROUD OF YOU!



STILL HE LOVES THE MORTAL GIRL-- THE FEMALE HE CAN **NEVER** BE PERMITTED TO MARRY! WHAT AM I TO DO WITH MY STRONG-WILLED SON??



THE END

Tales of
ASGARD
HOME OF
THE MIGHTY
NORSE
GODS!

"TRAPPED BY the TROLLS!"

BEHOLD! A WEARY TRAVELER APPEARS AT THE COURT OF SINDRI, KING OF THE DWARFS! FINALLY, THE STRANGER SPEAKS---

OH, MIGHTY KING SINDRI... I HAVE LOST MY WAY! I BEG SHELTER FROM THE STORM OUTSIDE!

YOU SEEK SHELTER? SO BE IT! YOU SHALL FIND IT HERE!

HAH! IF THE FOOL STRANGER BELIEVES KING SINDRI, IT WILL COST HIM HIS LIFE!



FANTASTICALLY WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE

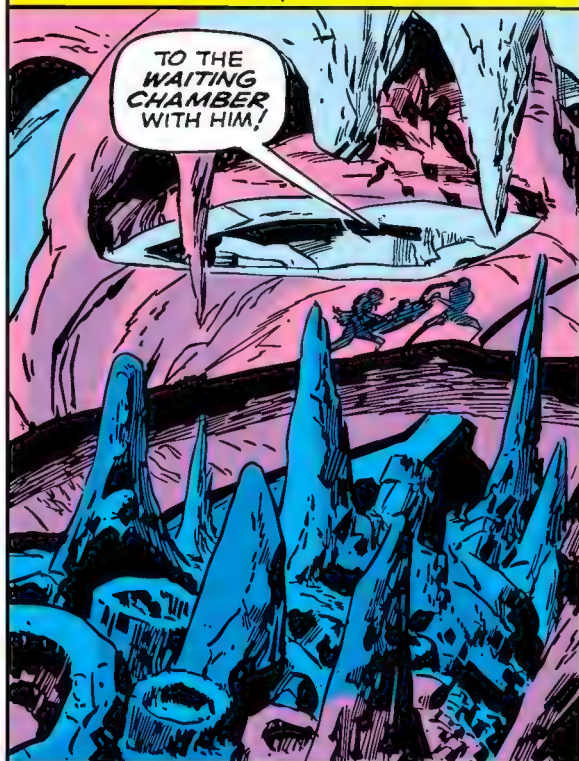
FAITHFULLY DRAWN BY:
JACK KIRBY

FABULOUSLY INKED BY:
VINCE COLLETTA

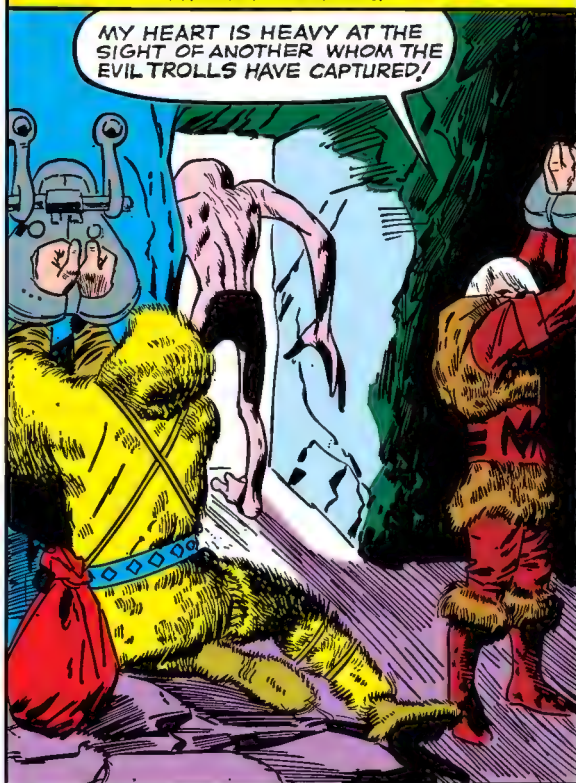
FINALLY LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK



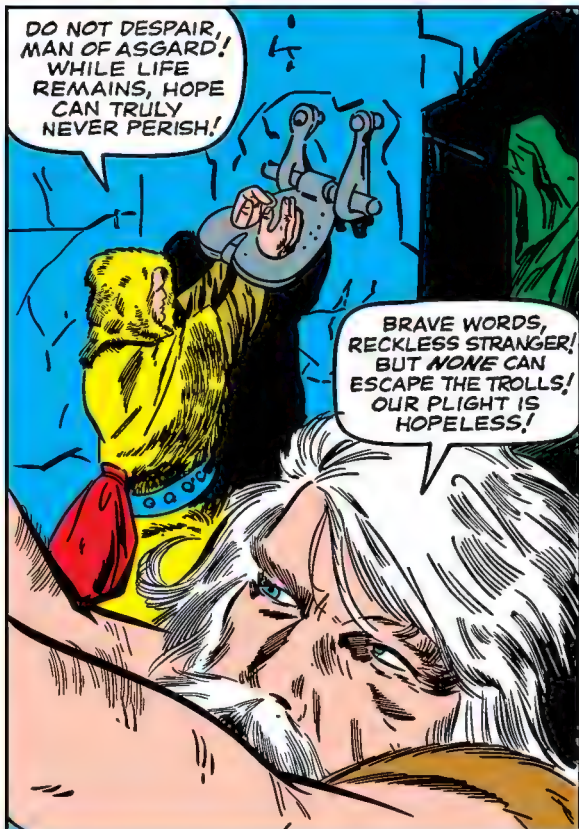
DISDAINFULLY, THE SAVAGE TROLLS CARRY THEIR MOTIONLESS CAPTIVE DEEP INTO THE INTERIOR OF THEIR UNDERGROUND KINGDOM, THRU WINDING CAVERNS AND TWISTING TUNNELS, UNTIL...



...REACHING A DARK, MURKY CHAMBER, THEY CHAIN THE HAPLESS PRISONER TO THE WALL, AS HE NOTICES ANOTHER CAPTIVE FROM ASGARD CHAINED NEARBY...



DO NOT DESPAIR, MAN OF ASGARD! WHILE LIFE REMAINS, HOPE CAN TRULY NEVER PERISH!



BUT--WHAT IS *THAT*?? YOU HAVE LOOSED THAT SACK WHICH YOU CARRIED --AND AS IT STRIKES THE FLOOR, I SEE A HAMMER CONTAINED WITHIN!



MEANWHILE, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, THE CRUEL TROLL OVERSEERS DEMAND MORE AND MORE LABOR FROM THEIR HELPLESS SERFS...

FASTER, MEN OF ASGARD! WORK, OR PERISH! NONE CAN SAVE YOU ONCE YOU HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO THE TROLLS!



YOU LIE, WICKED ONE! THEIR MOMENT OF RESCUE IS HERE! NOW YOU SHALL PAY FOR YOUR HEARTLESS OPPRESSION! BY ASGARD, HOW YOU SHALL PAY!

IT IS THOR-- THE YOUNG THUNDER GOD!

HE FREED HIMSELF BY THE POWER OF HIS HAMMER! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH MIGHT-- SUCH MAJESTY! NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN DEFY THE SON OF NOBLE ODIN!



AS IF TO PUNCTUATE THOSE DRAMATIC WORDS, THOR SWINGS HIS MIGHTY MALLET BUT ONCE, AND THE VERY HEAVENS SEEM TO POUR FORTH A SURGE OF NAKED FORCE SUCH AS NO LIVING EYES HAVE EVER WITNESSED BEFORE!



THEN, A SECOND SWING OF THE AWESOME HAMMER CAUSES THE VERY AIR TO VIBRATE WITH SUCH UNIMAGINABLE ENERGY THAT THE PRISONERS' CHAINS ARE SHATTERED INTO NOTHINGNESS!

NOW ATTACK, MEN OF ASGARD! SHOW THE EVIL TROLLS HOW FREE MEN FIGHT! FOR VENGEANCE SHALL BE OURS THIS DAY!



BUT, EVEN AS THEIR PULSE-POUNDING WAR CRIES REVERBERATE THRU THE DANK, WINDING TUNNELS, THE CHARGING WARRIORS CAN FIND NO FURTHER TRACE OF THEIR ONCE-PROUD CAPTORS!

THEY HAVE FLED BEFORE US! THE COWARDLY TYRANTS FEAR TO MEET US IN EQUAL BATTLE! BUT THE WRATH OF THOR IS NOT SO EASILY DEFIED!

TO THE SURFACE, MY BRETHREN!



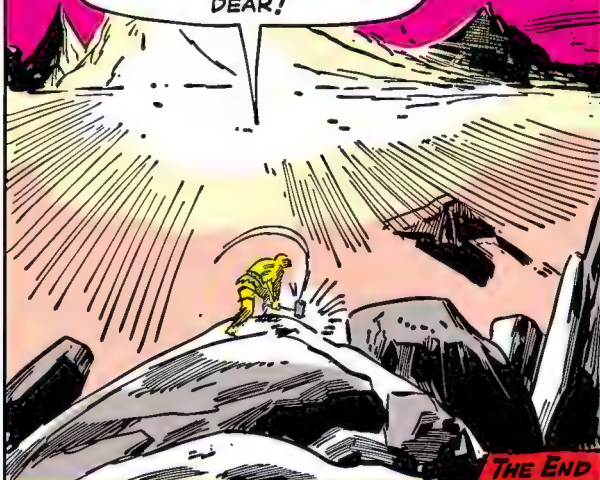
RETURN NOW TO YOUR HOMES AND YOUR LOVED ONES! I STILL HAVE ONE MORE TASK TO PERFORM!

WE WERE FOOLS TO ABANDON HOPE! WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT ODIN WOULD NOT FORSAKE US! WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT HE WOULD SEND MIGHTY THOR TO SET US FREE!



LATER, AFTER ALL HAVE DEPARTED, ONE LONE FIGURE STANDS ATOP THE ENTRANCE TO THE TROLL KINGDOM, AND WITH ONE LAST BLOW OF HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER, SEALS THE OPENING FOREVER!

NEVERMORE SHALL MEN MAKE SLAVES OF OTHERS! NOT IN ASGARD--NOT ON EARTH--NOT ANY PLACE WHERE THE HAMMER OF THOR CAN BE SWUNG--OR WHERE MEN OF GOOD FAITH HOLD FREEDOM DEAR!



THE END

ANOTHER MIGHTY EPIC OF DRAMA AND DARING NEXT ISSUE AS THOR HIMSELF IS BANISHED FROM ASGARD! DON'T DARE MISS IT--YOU KNOW HOW SENSITIVE STAN AND JACK ARE!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

109
OCT.

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
WITH



THE
MIGHTY

THOR

FEATURING
the
MENACE
of...

MAGNETO,

MOST POWERFUL OF THE EVIL MUTANTS!



THE MIGHTY THOR! "WHEN MAGNETO STRIKES!"

WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE,
THE MONARCH OF THE
MARVEL AGE, AT THE
PINNACLE OF HIS POWER!

ILLUSTRATED BY:
JACK KIRBY,
THE PRINCE OF PAGEANTRY,
AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS
TITANIC TALENT!

INKED BY:
CHIC STONE,
THE DEAN OF LINE
DESIGN, AT THE PEAK
OF HIS PROWESS!

LETTERED BY:
S. ROSEN,
THE SULTAN OF SPELL-
ING, AT THE LITTLE
TABLE IN HIS STUDIO!

* BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE
PUBLISHERS OF X-MEN MAGAZINE!
(NAMES... OURSELVES!)

LIKE IT, THOR?
IT'S ONE OF OUR
LEADING EXHIBITS
FOR THE PROPOSED
"HALL OF HEROES"
AT THE FAIR!

I AM DEEPLY
TOUCHED! I SHALL
ALWAYS STRIVE TO
BE WORTHY OF SO
GREAT AN HONOR!



OUR EPIC TALE BEGINS AT THE SITE OF THE WORLD'S FAIR, WHERE THE DYNAMIC THUNDER GOD VIEWS THE SCULPTURE FOR A NEW EXHIBITION! A PEACEFUL SCENE, PERHAPS... BUT ONE WHICH GIVES NO HINT OF THE FANTASTIC EVENTS WHICH ARE SOON TO FOLLOW....!!

AND HERE WE HAVE ADDITIONAL PIECES OF SCULPTURE, ALL BASED UPON SOME OF THE MOST DRAMATIC ADVENTURERS IN THE WORLD TODAY! YOU WILL NOTICE THE **FANTASTIC FOUR**, YOUR FELLOW **AVENGERS**, AND, IN THE NEXT ROOM, WE HAVE **SPIDER MAN**, **DAREDEVIL**, AND THE **X-MEN**!

A TRULY IMPOSING
ARRAY! YOU HAVE
CHOSEN WELL, SIR!



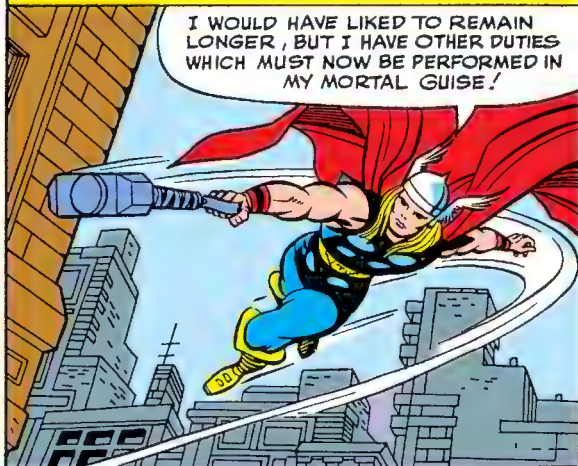
I SINCERELY HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONIES WHEN THE PAVILION IS COMPLETE, THOR!

I SHALL DO MY
BEST! THANK
YOU FOR THIS
PREVIEW TOUR...
AND FAREWELL!

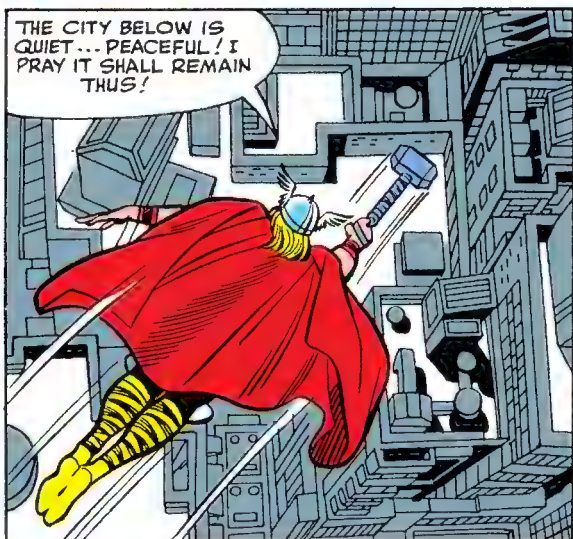


MOMENTS LATER, THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD HURTLES THROUGH THE SKY AT BLINDING SPEED AS HE HEADS FOR THE MEDICAL OFFICE OF DR. DON BLAKE..

I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO REMAIN LONGER, BUT I HAVE OTHER DUTIES WHICH MUST NOW BE PERFORMED IN MY MORTAL GUISE!



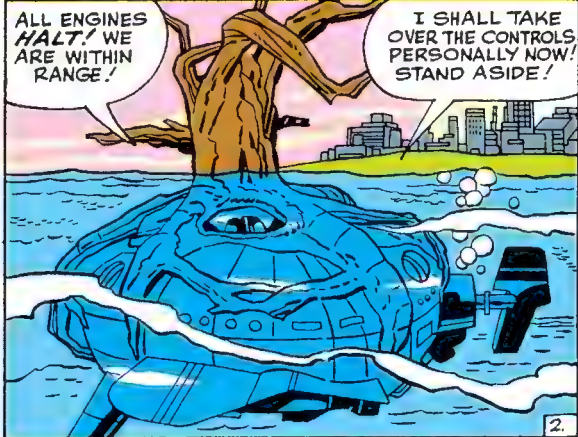
THE CITY BELOW IS
QUIET... PEACEFUL! I
PRAY IT SHALL REMAIN
THUS!

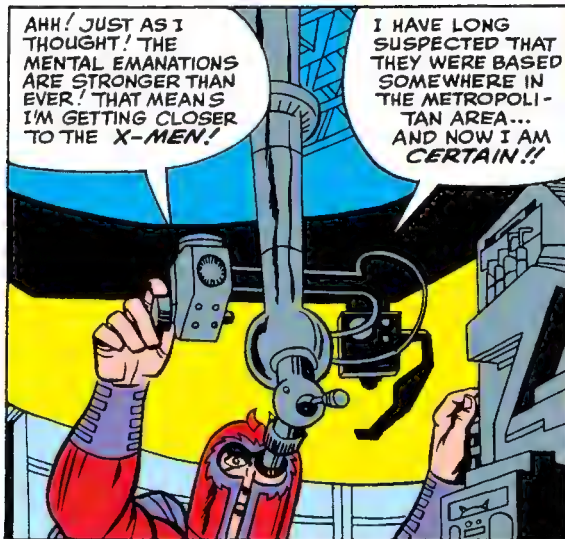


BUT, HOW DIFFERENT WOULD THE HANDSOME IMMORTAL'S THOUGHTS BE IF HE COULD SEE THE STRANGE, CAMOUFLAGED SUBMERSIBLE FORT WHICH EVEN NOW QUIETLY APPROACHES NEW YORK'S UNSUSPECTING HARBOR!

ALL ENGINES
HALT! WE
ARE WITHIN
RANGE!

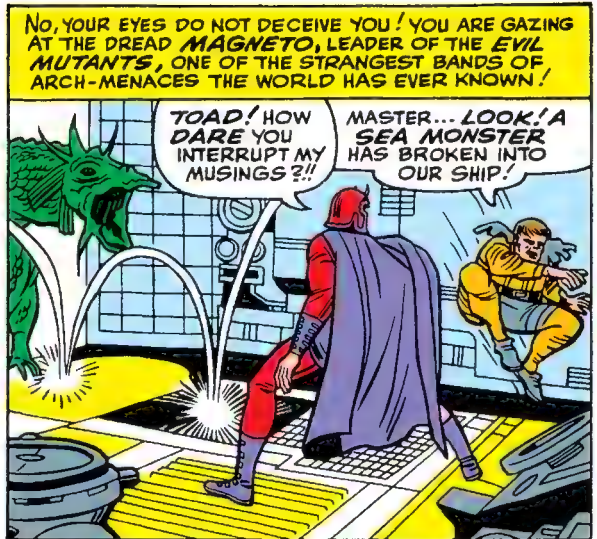
I SHALL TAKE
OVER THE CONTROLS
PERSONALLY NOW!
STAND ASIDE!





AHH! JUST AS I THOUGHT! THE MENTAL EMANATIONS ARE STRONGER THAN EVER! THAT MEANS I'M GETTING CLOSER TO THE X-MEN!

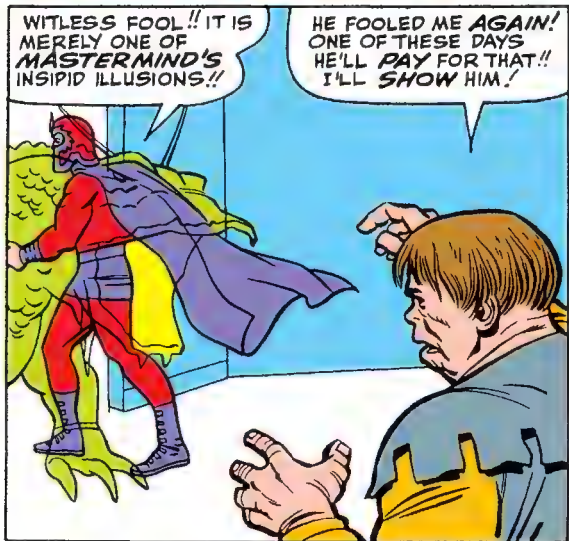
I HAVE LONG SUSPECTED THAT THEY WERE BASED SOMEWHERE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA... AND NOW I AM CERTAIN!!



NO, YOUR EYES DO NOT DECEIVE YOU! YOU ARE GAZING AT THE DREAD **MAGNETO**, LEADER OF THE **EVIL MUTANTS**, ONE OF THE STRANGEST BANDS OF ARCH-MENACES THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

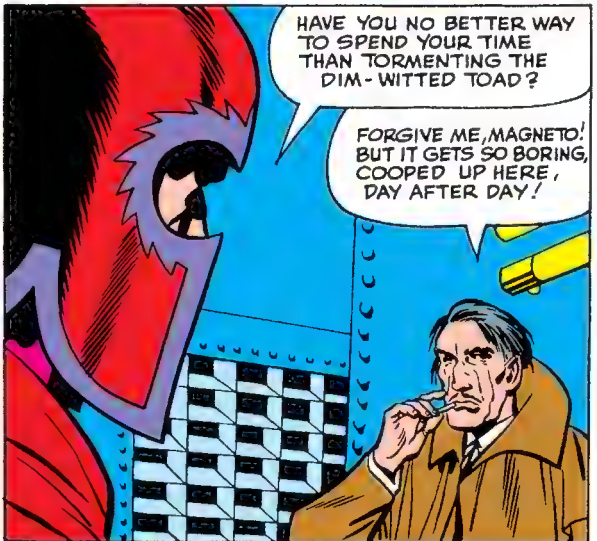
TOAD! HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT MY MUSINGS?!!

MASTER... LOOK! A SEA MONSTER HAS BROKEN INTO OUR SHIP!



WITLESS FOOL!! IT IS MERELY ONE OF **MASTERMIND'S** INSIPID ILLUSIONS!!

HE FOOLED ME AGAIN! ONE OF THESE DAYS HE'LL PAY FOR THAT!! I'LL SHOW HIM!



HAVE YOU NO BETTER WAY TO SPEND YOUR TIME THAN TORMENTING THE DIM-WITTED TOAD?

FORGIVE ME, **MAGNETO**! BUT IT GETS SO BORING, COOPED UP HERE, DAY AFTER DAY!



YOUR DAYS OF BOREDOM HAVE COME TO AN END! I HAVE A TASK FOR ALL OF YOU! ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THE **X-MEN** ARE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE WITHIN A FIFTY MILE AREA! YOUR ORDERS ARE... **FIND THEM!**

QUICKSILVER! YOU AND YOUR SISTER WILL ACCOMPANY **MASTERMIND** AND THE TOAD! I SHALL STAY BEHIND TO PLAN OUR STRATEGY WHEN OUR ENEMIES HAVE BEEN TRACKED DOWN!

VERY WELL, **MAGNETO**!



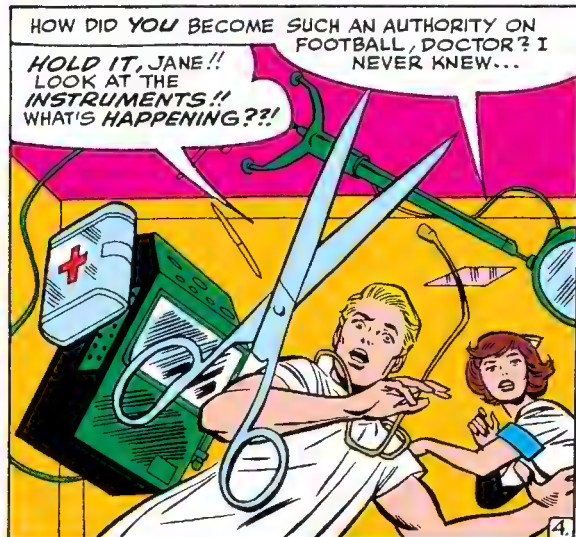
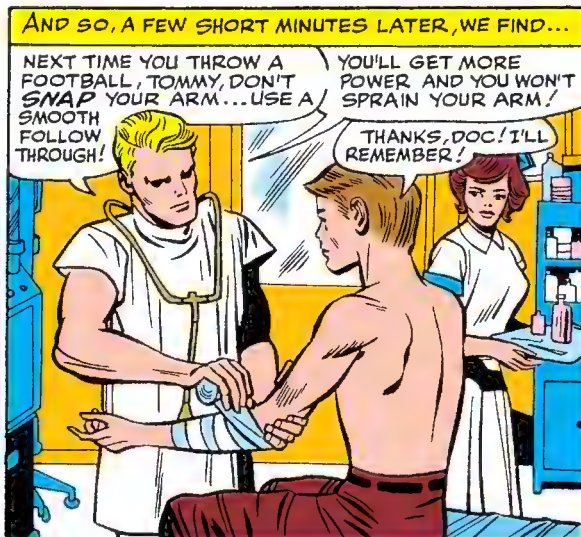
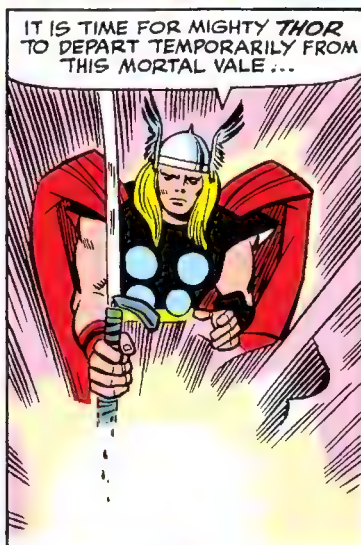
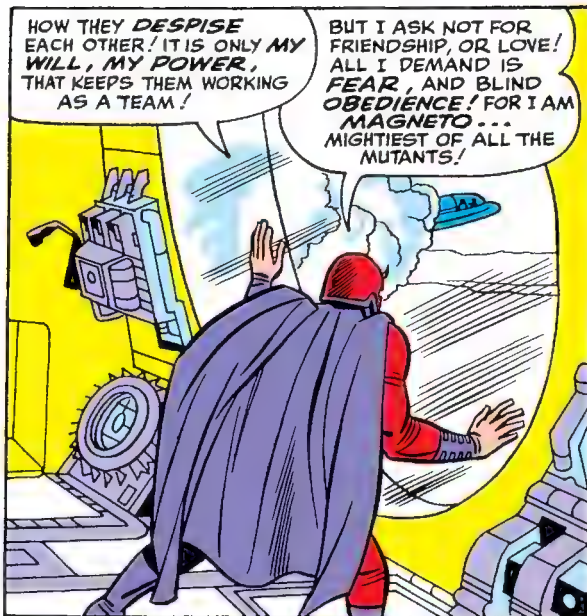
IT WILL BE A **RELIEF** TO GET AWAY FROM THAT EVIL CREATURE FOR A WHILE! IF ONLY **MASTERMIND** AND THE TOAD WEREN'T COMING WITH US!

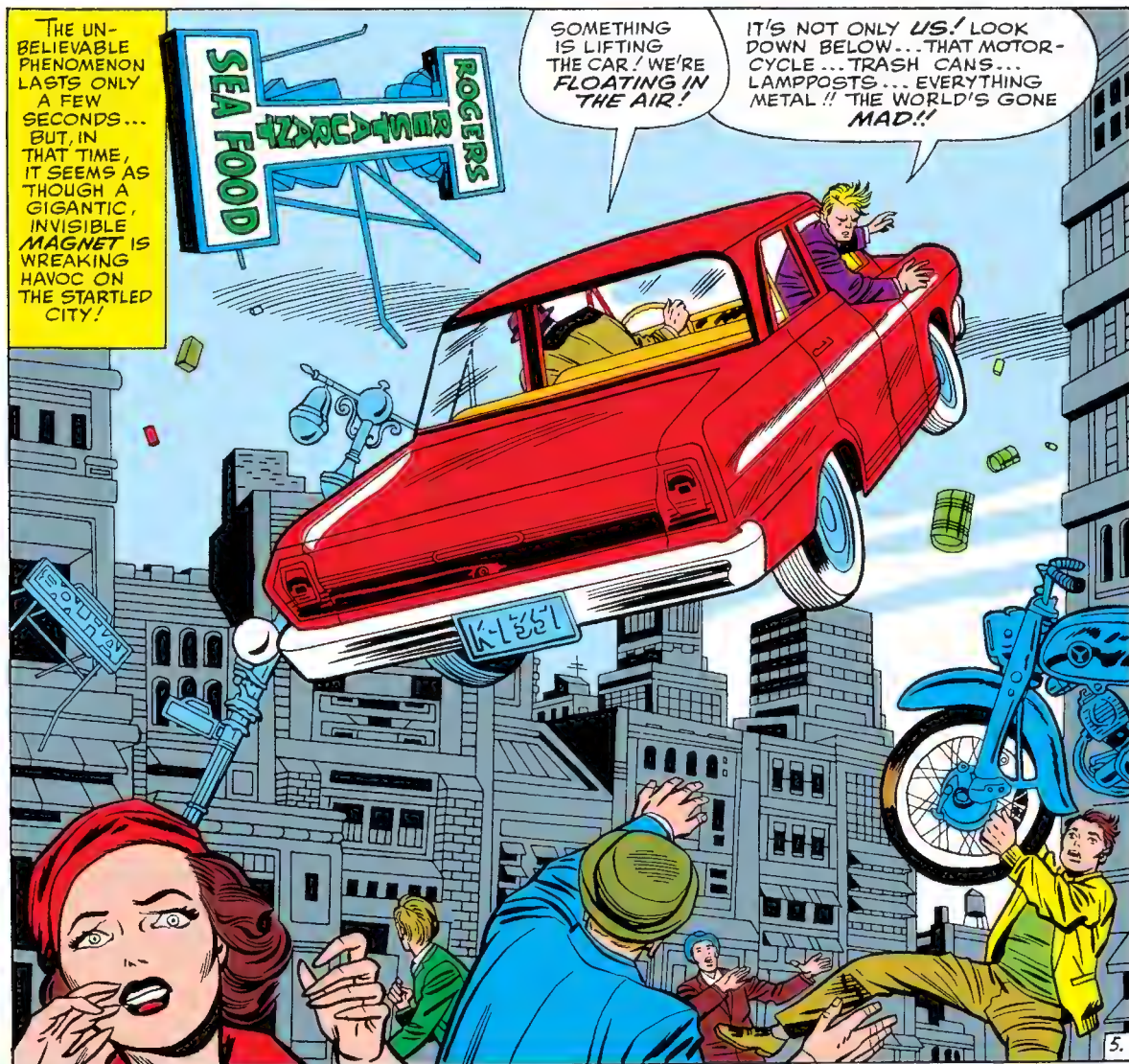
JUST WAIT, WANDA! I'LL TELL **MAGNETO** WHAT YOU SAID!

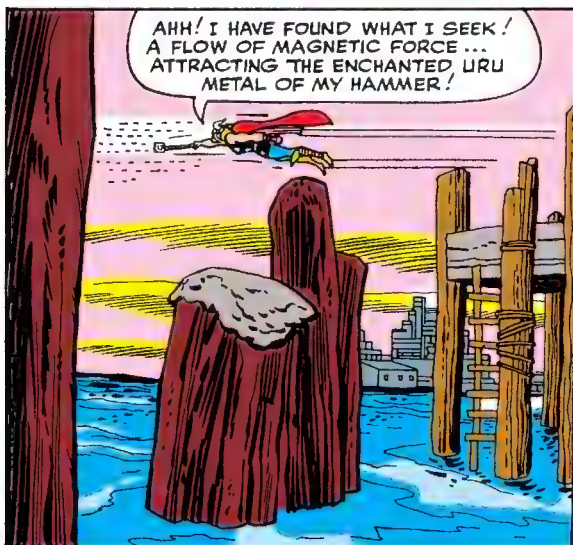
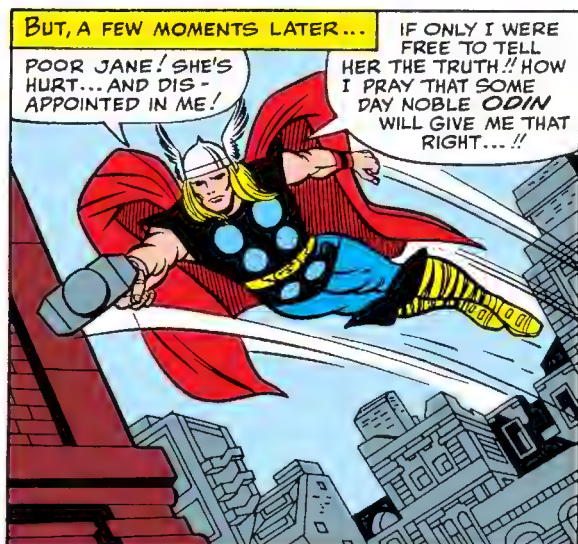
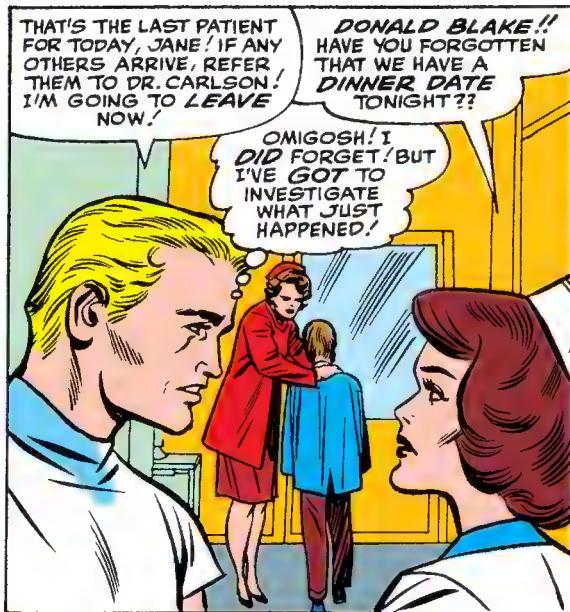
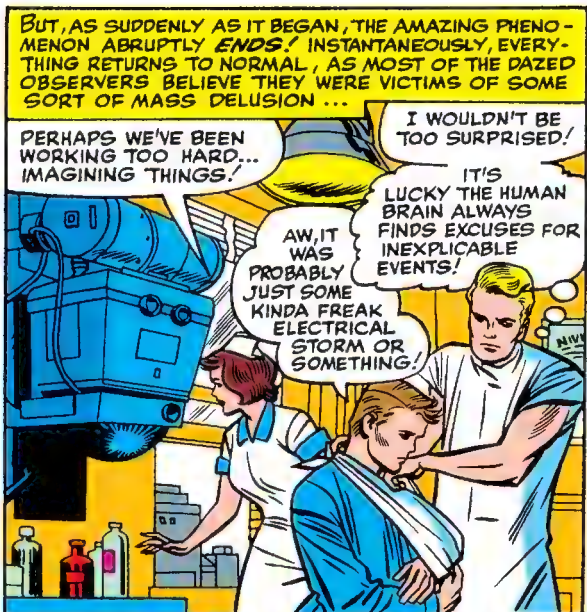
SILENCE! NO HARM SHALL COME TO MY SISTER WHILE I LIVE!

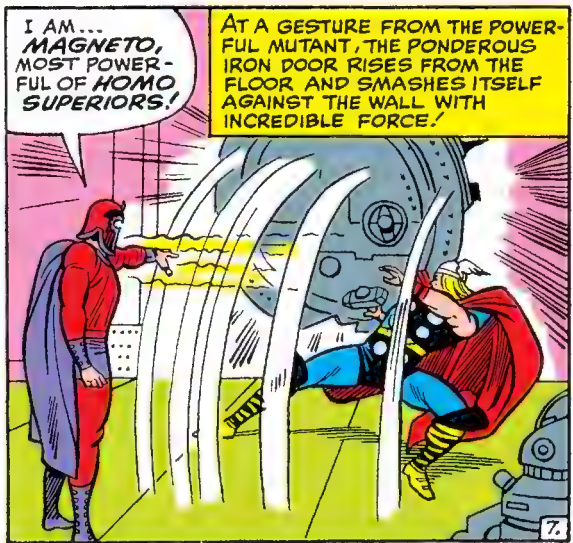
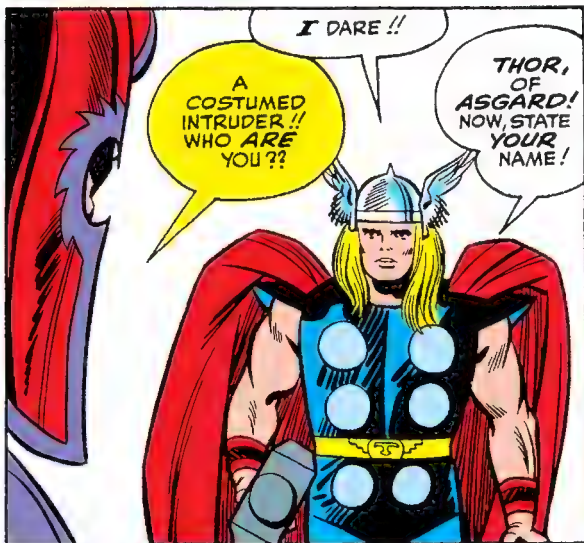
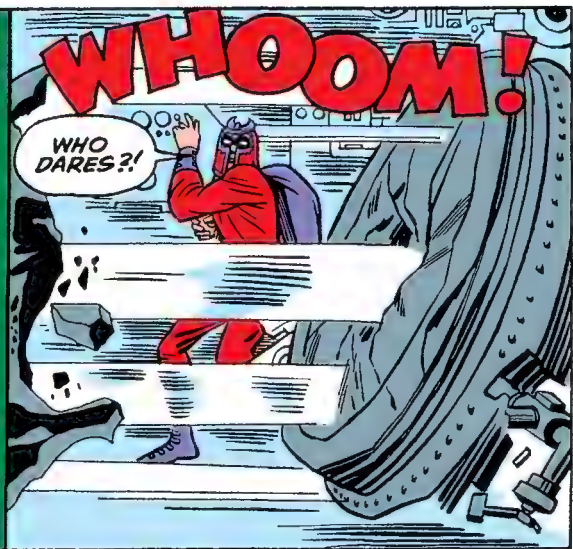
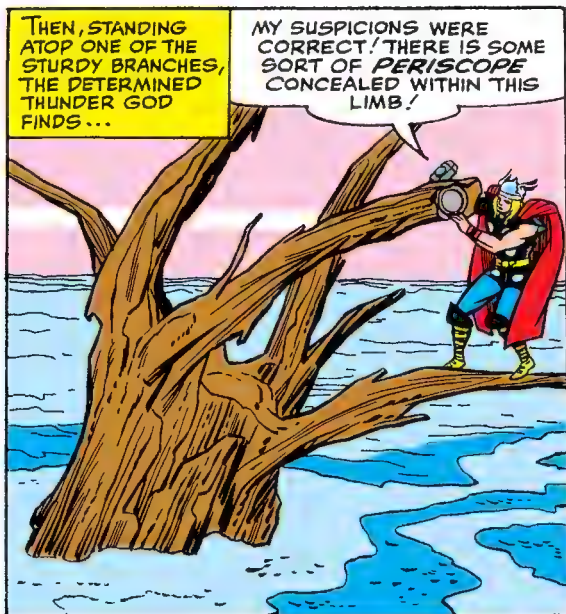
NOW GO! DO NOT RETURN UNTIL YOU HAVE **FOUND** THE **X-MEN**!!

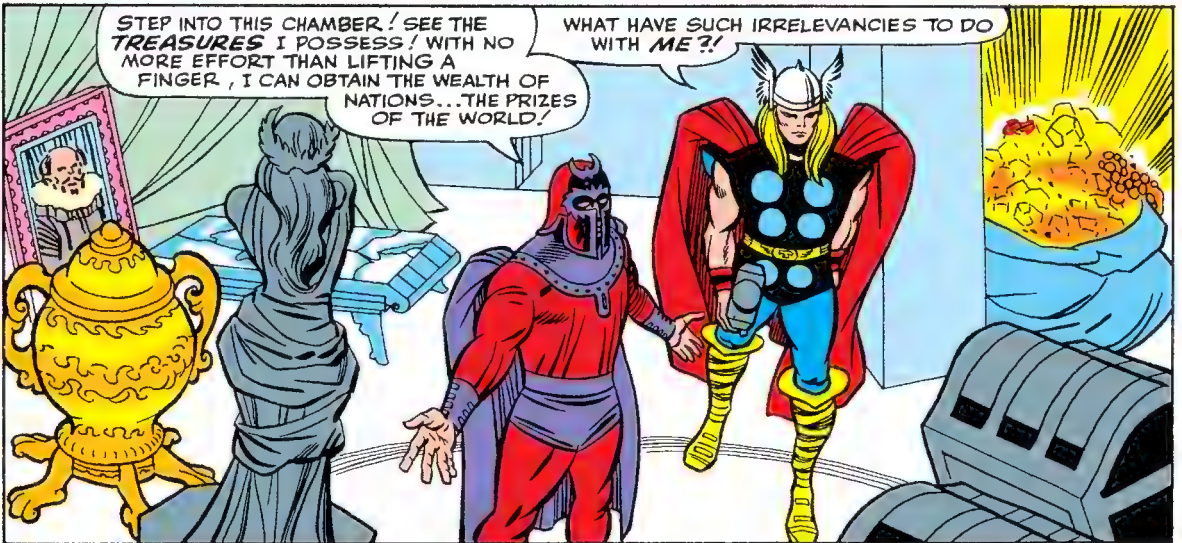
SOME-DAY YOU'LL **REGRET** THOSE WORDS, MY HAUGHTY BEAUTY!

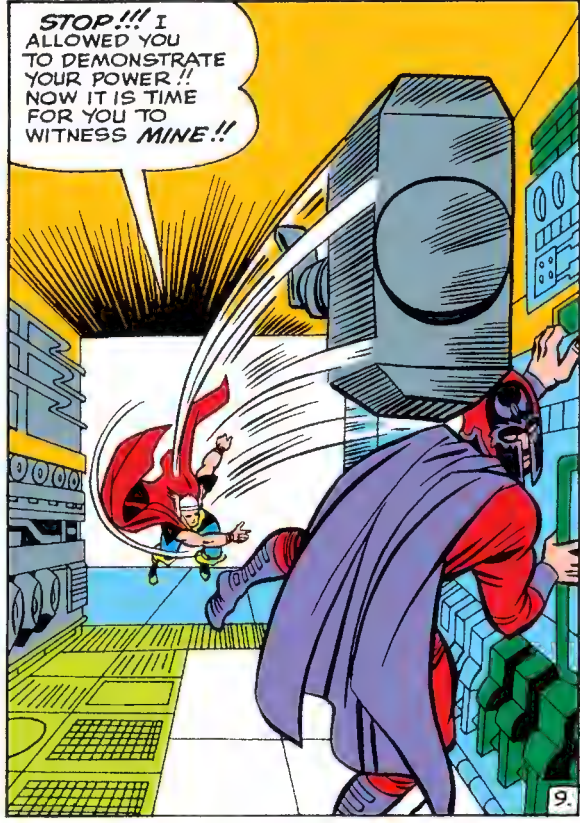
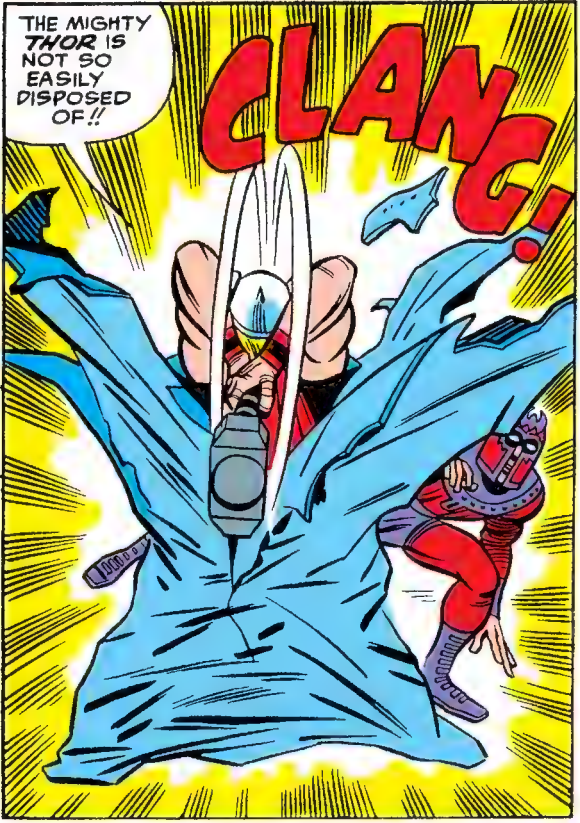


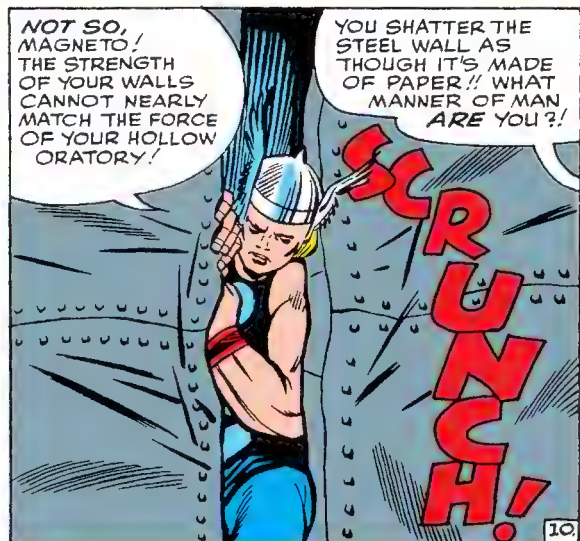
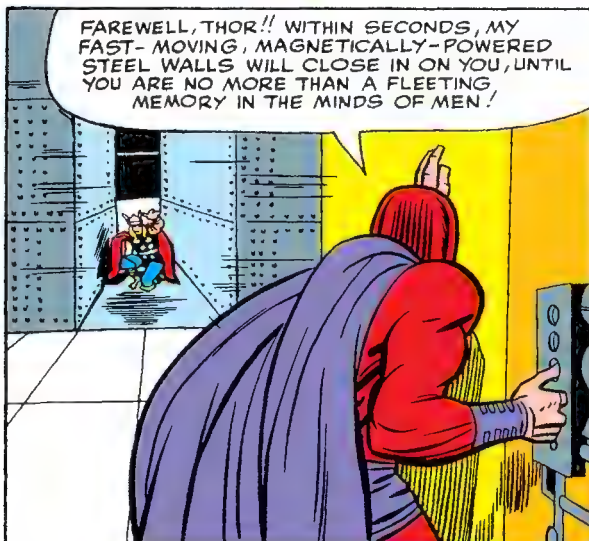
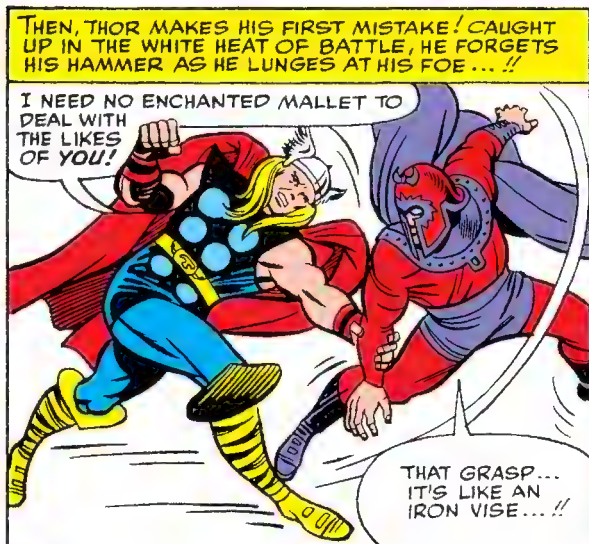
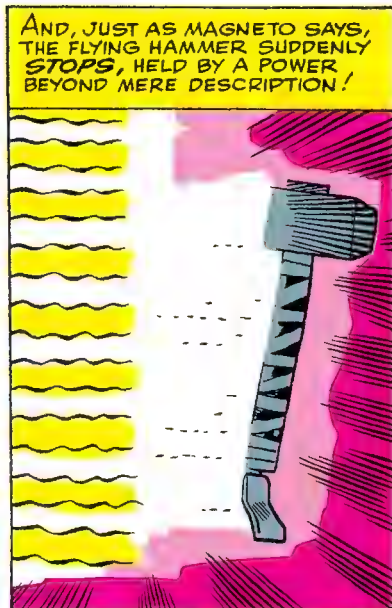
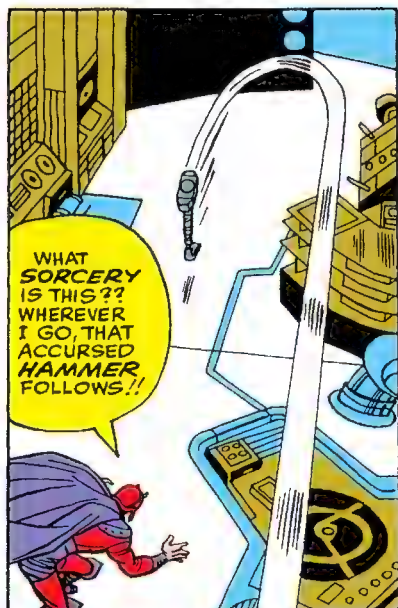








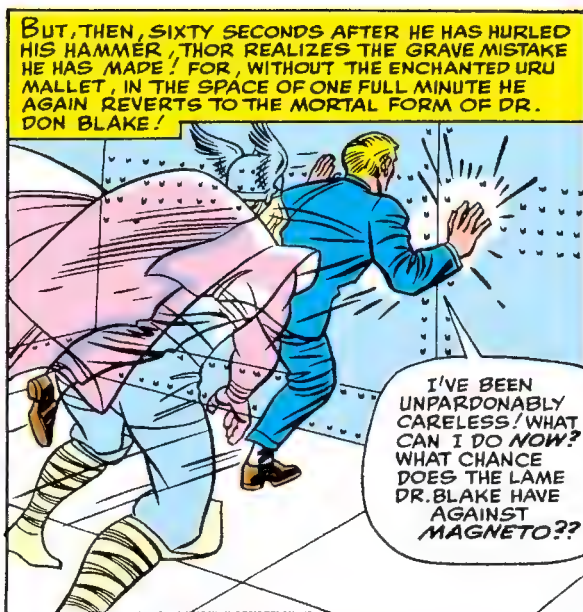






I AM MORE THAN MAN,
MAGNETO... MORE THAN
MUTANT! I AM
THOR!!

AND NO
MATTER
HOW MANY
WALLS YOU
PUT BETWEEN
US, YOU
CANNOT
ESCAPE
ME!

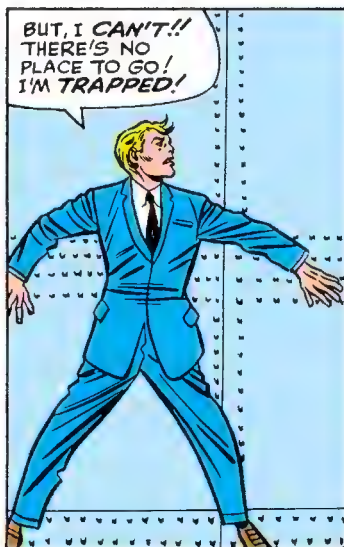


BUT, THEN, SIXTY SECONDS AFTER HE HAS HURLED
HIS HAMMER, THOR REALIZES THE GRAVE MISTAKE
HE HAS MADE! FOR, WITHOUT THE ENCHANTED URU
MALLET, IN THE SPACE OF ONE FULL MINUTE HE
AGAIN REVERTS TO THE MORTAL FORM OF DR.
DON BLAKE!

I'VE BEEN
UNPARDONABLY
CARELESS / WHAT
CAN I DO NOW?
WHAT CHANCE
DOES THE LAME
DR. BLAKE HAVE
AGAINST
MAGNETO??



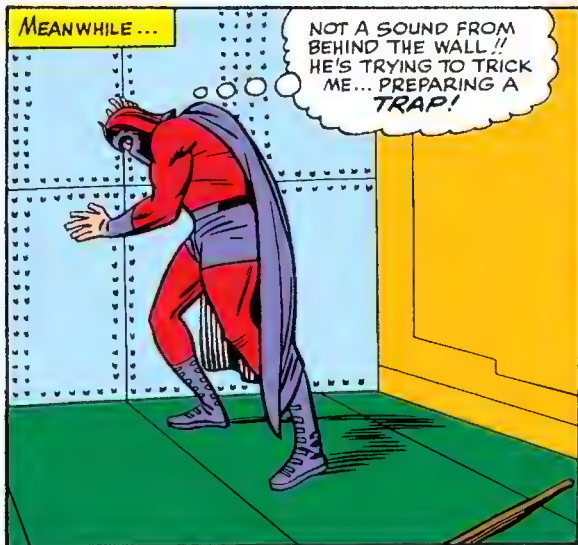
I'VE GOT TO RUN... HIDE
SOMEWHERE... STALL FOR
TIME... UNTIL I CAN
THINK!!



BUT, I CAN'T!!
THERE'S NO
PLACE TO GO!
I'M TRAPPED!

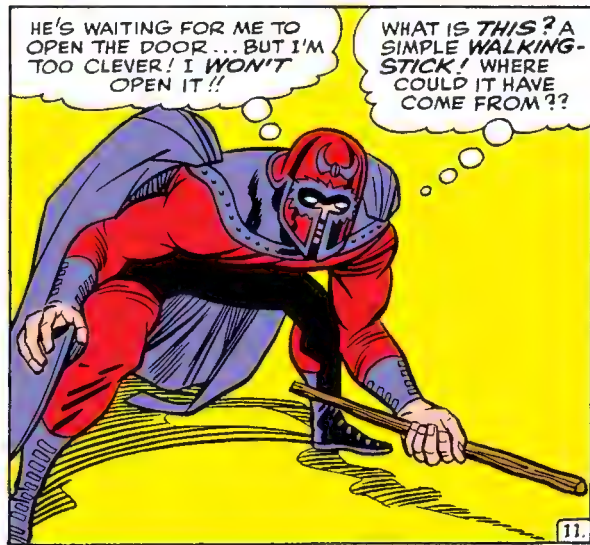


AT THE SAME INSTANT THAT I
CHANGED TO DR. DON BLAKE, MY
HAMMER MUST HAVE CHANGED
TO BLAKE'S ORDINARY-
LOOKING CANE! BUT, HOW
CAN I GET IT??
IT'S IN THE OTHER
CHAMBER,
BEHIND THIS
STEEL WALL!!



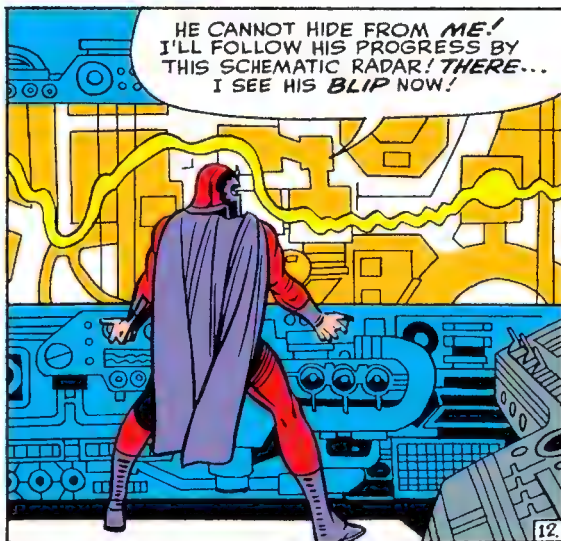
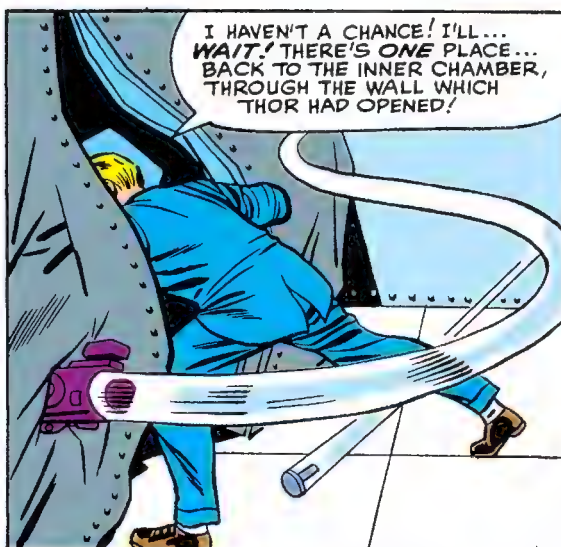
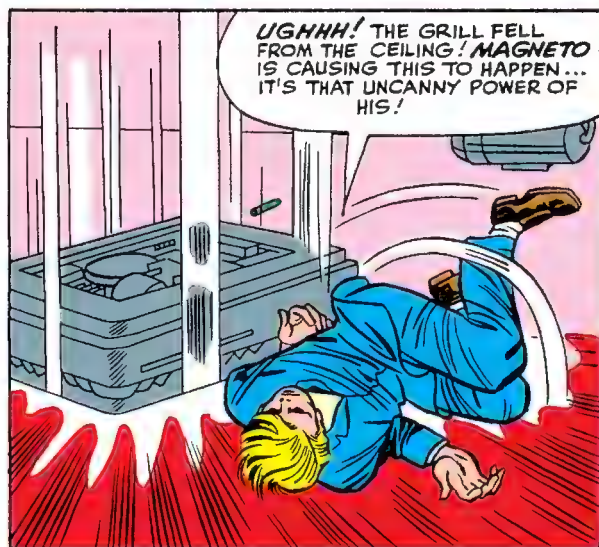
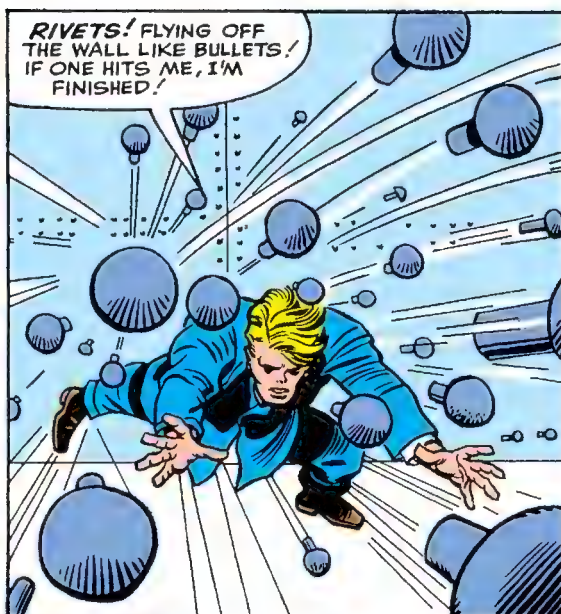
MEANWHILE...

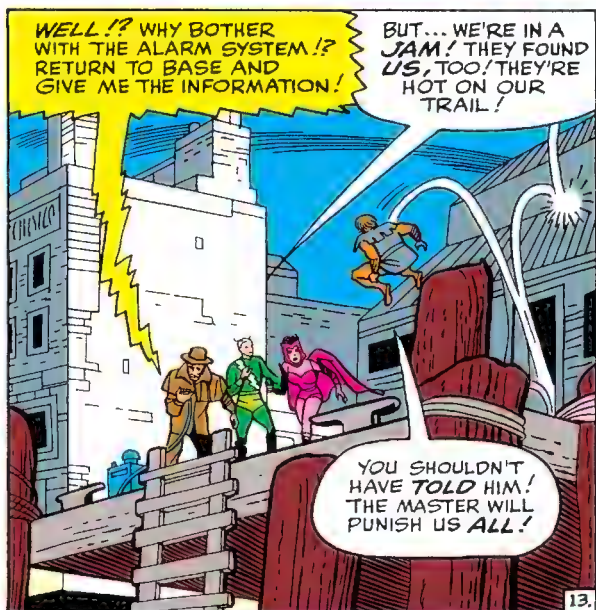
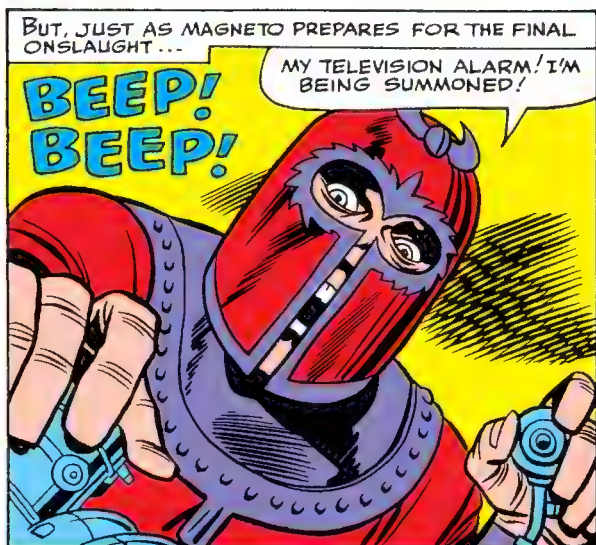
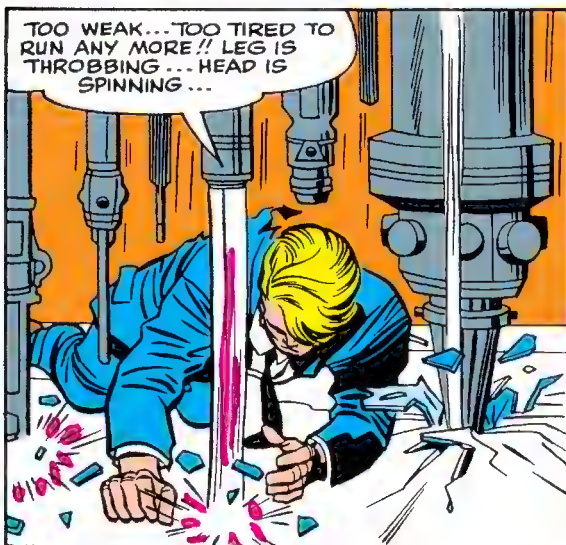
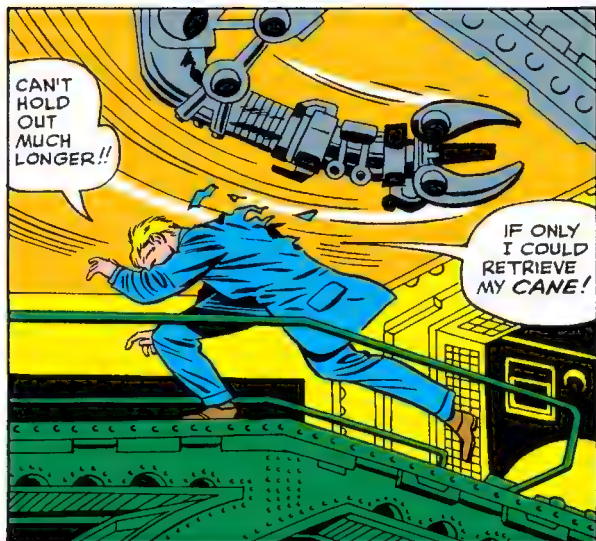
NOT A SOUND FROM
BEHIND THE WALL!!
HE'S TRYING TO TRICK
ME... PREPARING A
TRAP!

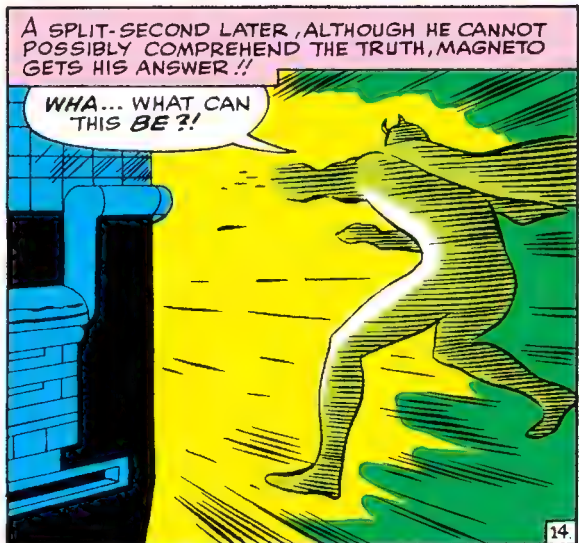
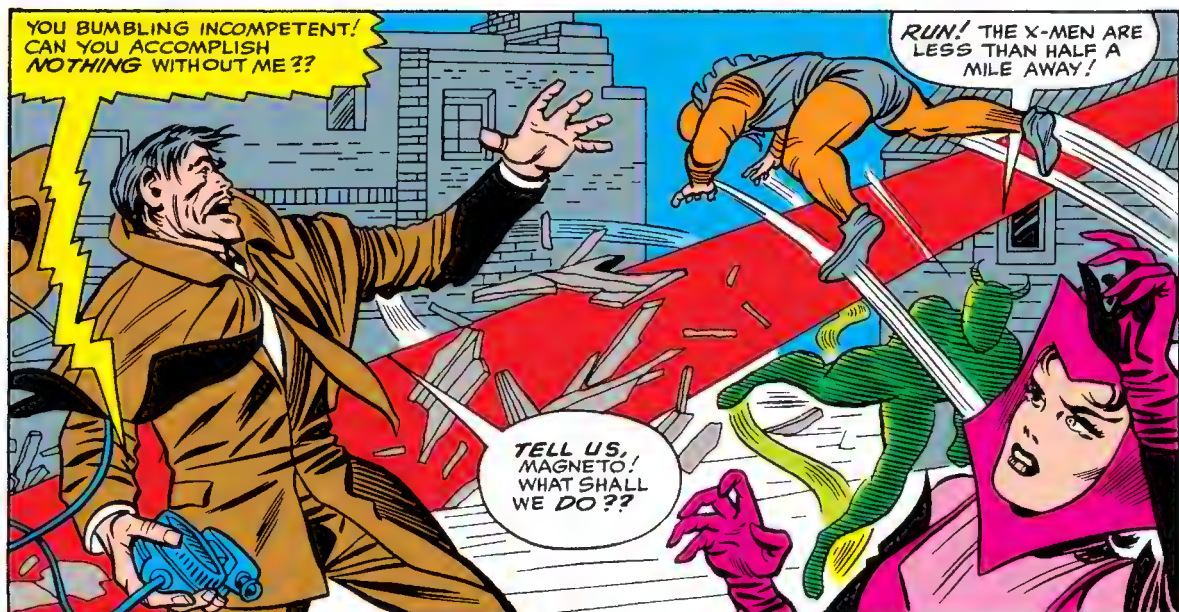


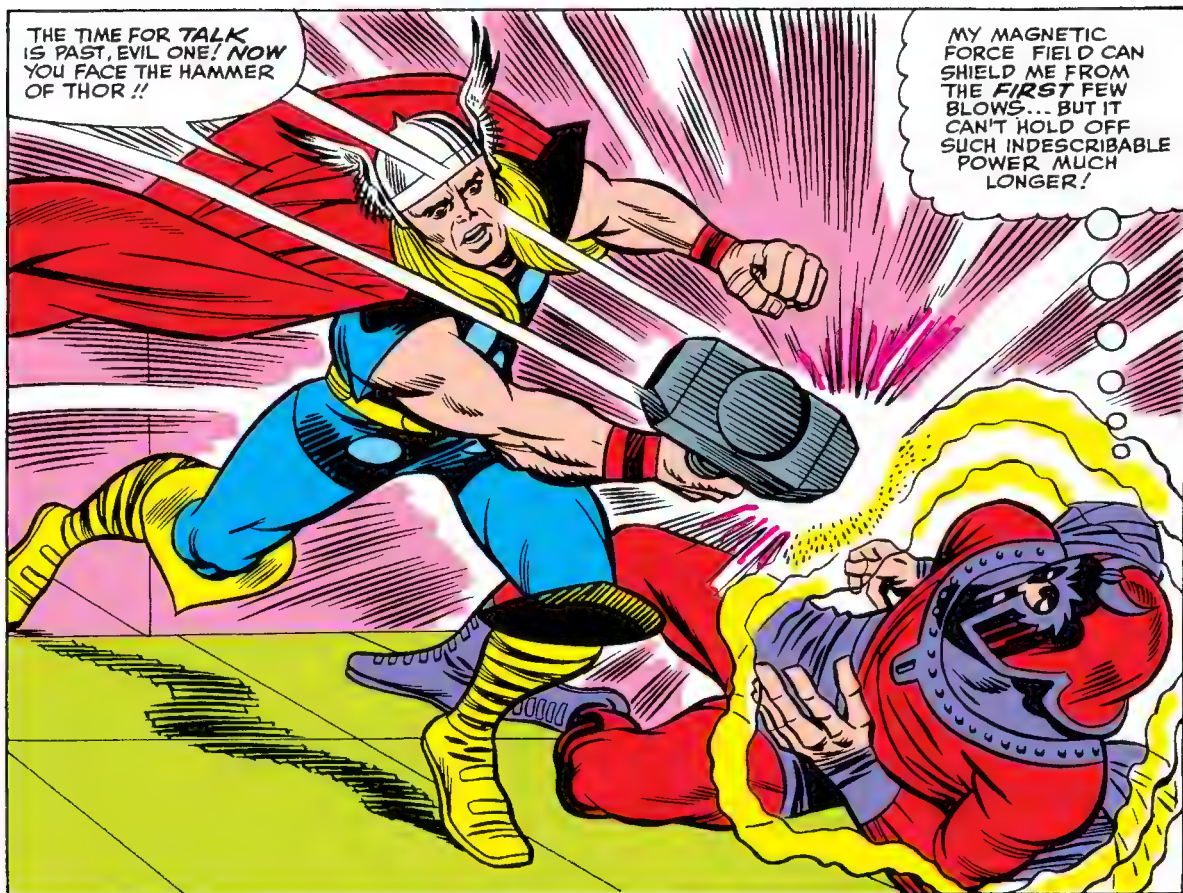
HE'S WAITING FOR ME TO
OPEN THE DOOR... BUT I'M
TOO CLEVER! I WON'T
OPEN IT!!

WHAT IS THIS? A
SIMPLE WALKING-
STICK! WHERE
COULD IT HAVE
COME FROM??



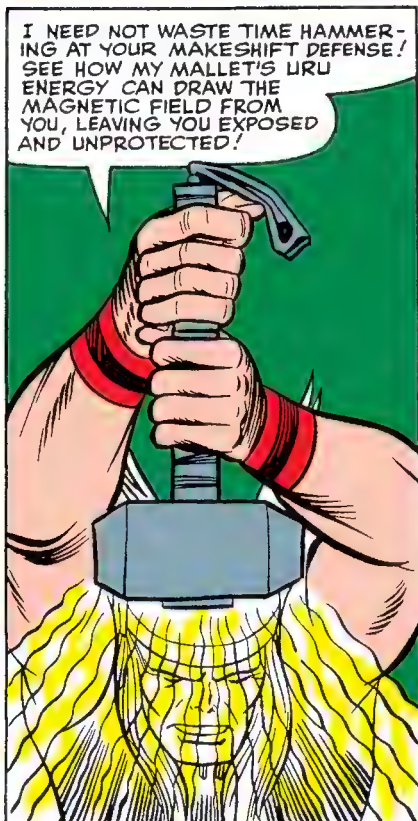




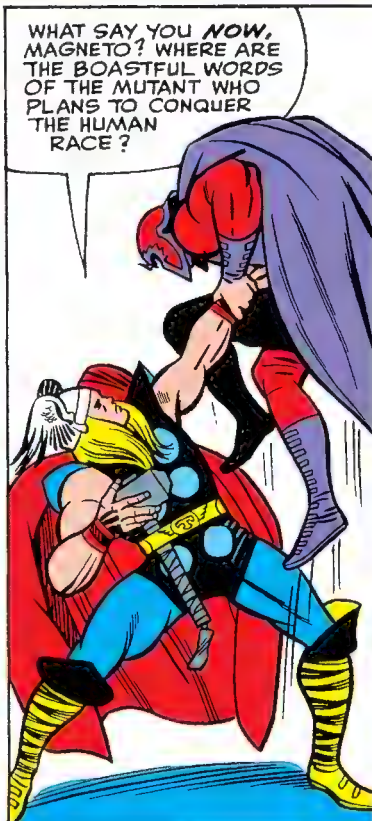


THE TIME FOR TALK
IS PAST, EVIL ONE! NOW
YOU FACE THE HAMMER
OF THOR !!

MY MAGNETIC
FORCE FIELD CAN
SHIELD ME FROM
THE **FIRST** FEW
BLOWS... BUT IT
CAN'T HOLD OFF
SUCH INDESCRIBABLE
POWER MUCH
LONGER!



I NEED NOT WASTE TIME HAMMER-
ING AT YOUR MAKESHIFT DEFENSE!
SEE HOW MY MALLET'S URU
ENERGY CAN DRAW THE
MAGNETIC FIELD FROM
YOU, LEAVING YOU EXPOSED
AND UNPROTECTED!



WHAT SAY YOU **NOW**,
MAGNETO? WHERE ARE
THE BOASTFUL WORDS
OF THE MUTANT WHO
PLANS TO CONQUER
THE HUMAN
RACE?



THROUGHOUT
HISTORY, THERE
HAVE BEEN
MANY WHO
FELT THEY WERE
SUPERIOR TO
MANKIND...
BUT ALWAYS
THEY WERE
DESTROYED...
WHILE HUMANITY
ENDURES!

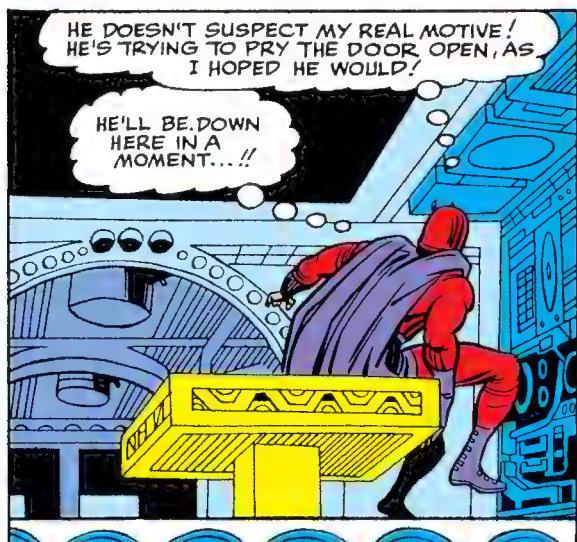


NONE MAY STRIKE MAGNETO AND LIVE TO TELL OF IT!! AND YOU, ACCURSED THOR, SHALL BE NO EXCEPTION!!



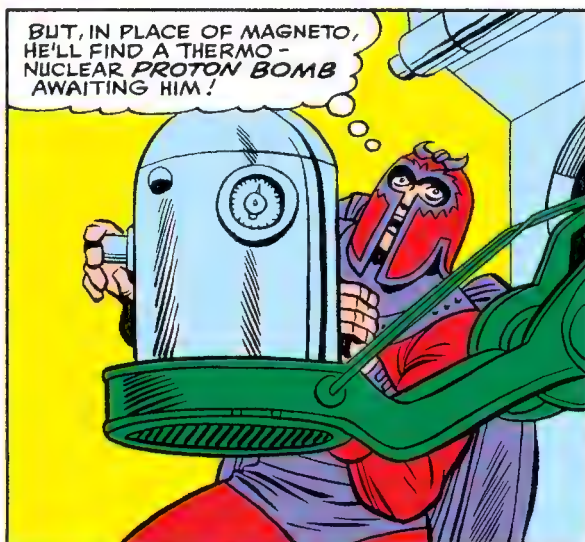
HE DROPPED THROUGH A TRAP DOOR!!

IS *THIS* HOW TO PUNISH THOR, EVIL BRAGGART?? BY *FLEEING* FROM HIM??



HE DOESN'T SUSPECT MY REAL MOTIVE! HE'S TRYING TO PRY THE DOOR OPEN, AS I HOPED HE WOULD!

HE'LL BE DOWN HERE IN A MOMENT...!!



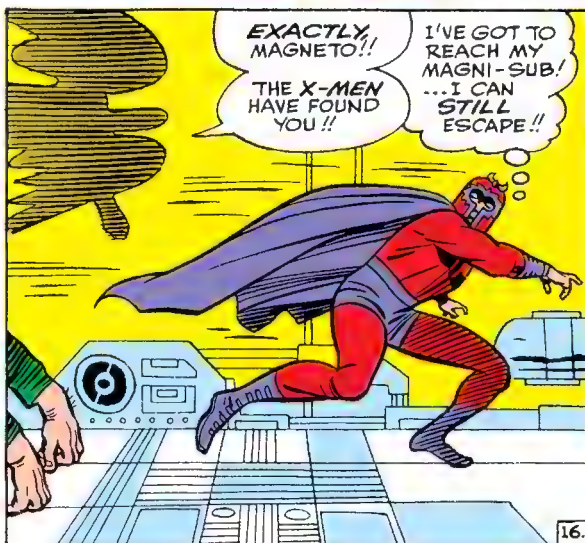
BUT, IN PLACE OF MAGNETO, HE'LL FIND A THERMO-NUCLEAR PROTON BOMB AWAITING HIM!



THAT BOMB WILL NEVER HURT ANYONE, MAGNETO!!

ICE FORMING AROUND THE MECHANISM!!

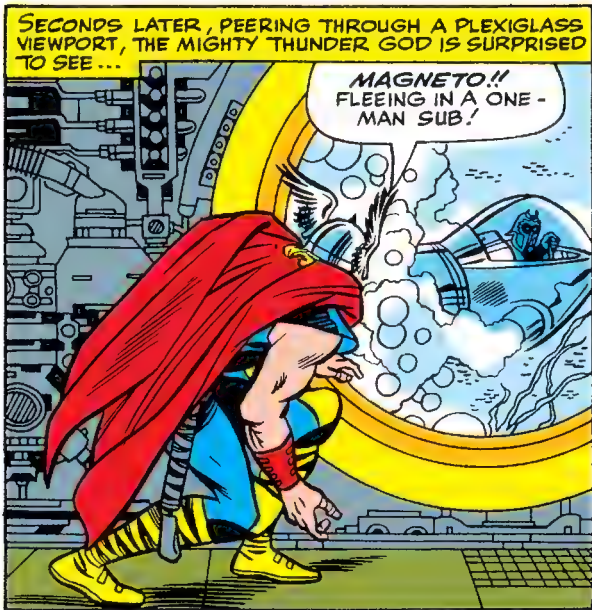
IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...



EXACTLY, MAGNETO!! THE X-MEN HAVE FOUND YOU!!

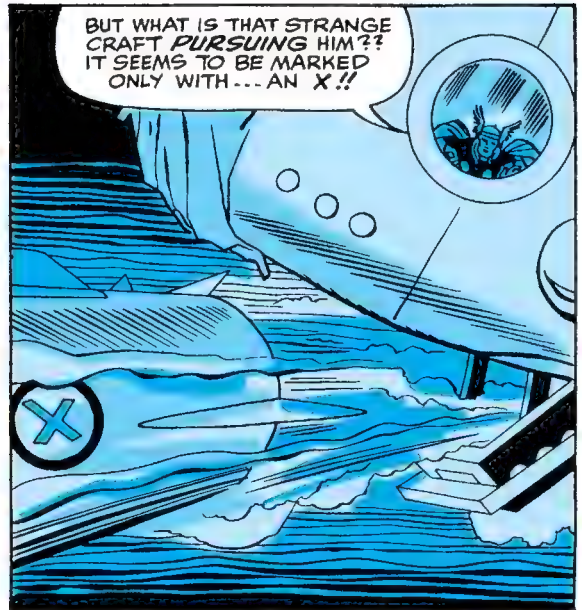
I'VE GOT TO REACH MY MAGNI-SUB! ...I CAN STILL ESCAPE!!

SECONDS LATER, PEERING THROUGH A PLEXIGLASS VIEWPORT, THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD IS SURPRISED TO SEE ...

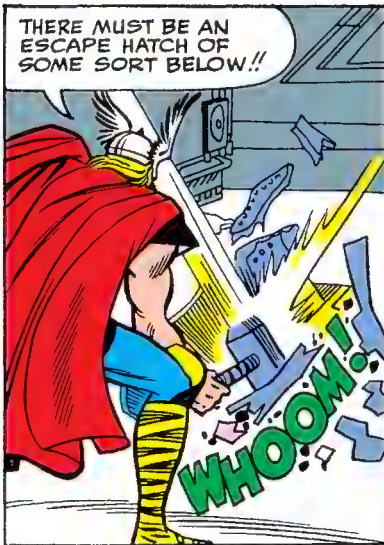


MAGNETO!!
FLEEING IN A ONE-
MAN SUB!

BUT WHAT IS THAT STRANGE
CRAFT PURSUING HIM??
IT SEEMS TO BE MARKED
ONLY WITH ... AN X!!



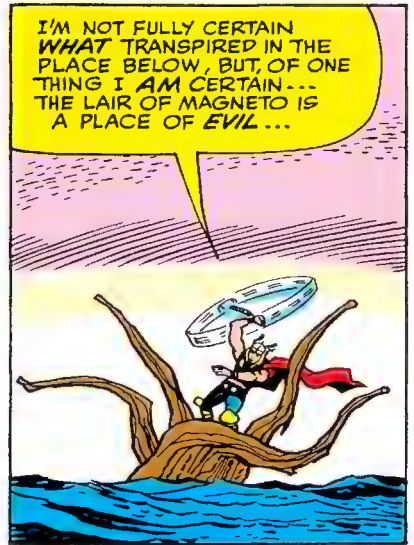
THERE MUST BE AN
ESCAPE HATCH OF
SOME SORT BELOW!!



A BOMB!!
THAT'S HOW HE
INTENDED TO DEFEAT
ME!! BUT IT'S
FROZEN INTO
USELESSNESS
NOW!



I'M NOT FULLY CERTAIN
WHAT TRANSPIRED IN THE
PLACE BELOW, BUT, OF ONE
THING I AM CERTAIN...
THE LAIR OF MAGNETO IS
A PLACE OF EVIL ...



AND, BY THE POWER OF
THE STORM ... BY THE
FURY OF THE ELEMENTS,
IT MUST BE DESTROYED!!



THE THUNDER GOD
HAS SO ORDAINED!!

I SUSPECT IT WAS NOT FROM ME
THAT MAGNETO FLED! THERE WERE
OTHERS ... OTHERS HE FEARED EVEN
MORE! SOME DAY I SHALL LEARN THE
TRUTH!



MEANWHILE, A SMALL ONE-MAN SUB LIES SILENT IN THE MURKY DARKNESS OF THE DEEP... PROTECTED FROM DETECTION BY A THICK INVISIBLE COATING OF MAGNETIC FORCE !!

I'M SAFE AT LAST! THE X-MEN CANNOT PENETRATE MY MAGNETIC BLANKET TO LOCATE ME !!

THEN, LONG MINUTES LATER...

THEY OUTSMARTED MY INEPT ALLIES! THEY MUST HAVE TRACED ME THROUGH MASTER-MIND'S RADIO BEAM... BUT IT AVAILED THEM NOTHING!

I SHALL NOW REJOIN QUICK-SILVER AND THE OTHERS! THIS IS BUT A TEMPORARY DEFEAT! SOONER OR LATER, ULTIMATE VICTORY WILL BE *MINE*!!

IT CANNOT BE OTHERWISE! I WAS *BORN* TO RULE MANKIND!

A SHORT TIME LATER...

HELLO! ANY-BODY HOME?

WELL! DOCTOR BLAKE! HOW HEROIC OF YOU TO VENTURE OUTDOORS ON SUCH A WINDY NIGHT!

JANE, DARLING... DID ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT SARCASTISM DOESN'T BECOME YOU? LIPS LIKE YOURS WERE MEANT ONLY TO WHISPER SWEET NOTHINGS !!

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN BREAK A DATE WITH ME, AND MAKE UP FOR IT WITH A LITTLE SWEET TALK...

...YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!

LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE THIN AS A RAIL! I'LL BET YOU HAVEN'T EVEN *EATEN* TODAY!

WELL, I...EH... WAS RATHER BUSY!

MMM! I NEVER KNEW HAM AND CHEESE COULD TASTE SO GOOD! DID I EVER TELL YOU YOU'RE *WONDERFUL*?

NOT OFTEN ENOUGH, YOU SILLY GOOP! HERE... HAVE A GLASS OF MILK!

WILL HE *EVER* SAY THE WORDS I'M LONGING TO HEAR? I JUST KNOW HE *NEEDS* ME TO LOOK AFTER HIM! HE'S SO DEAR... SO TRUSTING... SO LIKE A HELPLESS LITTLE BOY!

THE END

IT'S EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL WHETHER *MAGNETO* WOULD AGREE WITH LOVELY JANE FOSTER... BUT THEN, HE SAW DON BLAKE IN A SOME-WHAT DIFFERENT ASPECT/BE WITH US AGAIN, NEXT ISSUE, FOR MORE DAZZLING THRILLS WITH THE MOST DRAMATIC SUPER-HERO THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN! TILL THEN, MAY THE EYES OF ASGARD WATCH OVER YOU!

TALES OF
ASGARD

HOME OF
THE MIGHTY
NORSE GODS!

THE TIME: YEARS
AGO, WHEN THOR
WAS NOT YET 20!
THE PLACE:
ASGARD!

FOR DARING TO FIGHT A DUEL AGAINST
MY WISHES, YOU MUST ACCEPT MY
PUNISHMENT! EVEN THE SON OF ODIN
MAY NOT DISOBEY AN IMPERIAL COM-
MAND! AND SO I ORDER YOU TO BE...

**"BANISHED
FROM ASGARD!"**



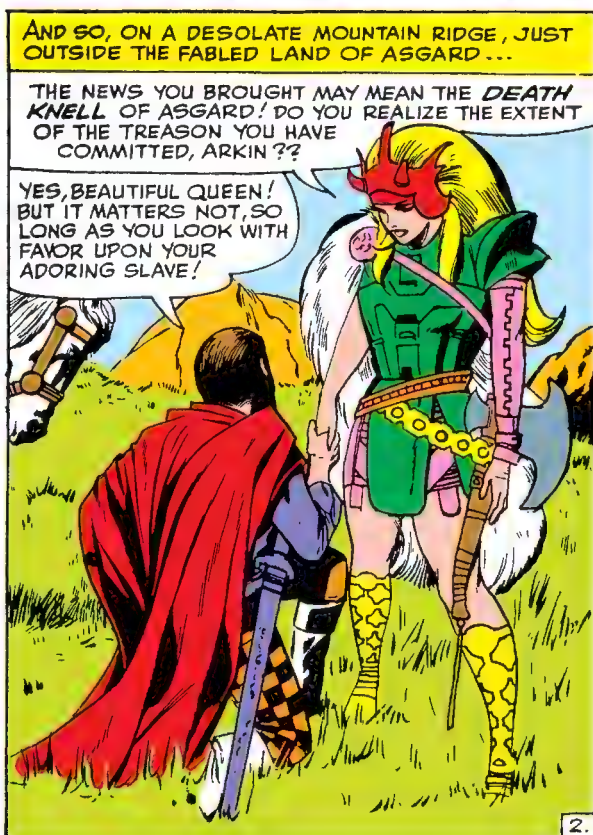
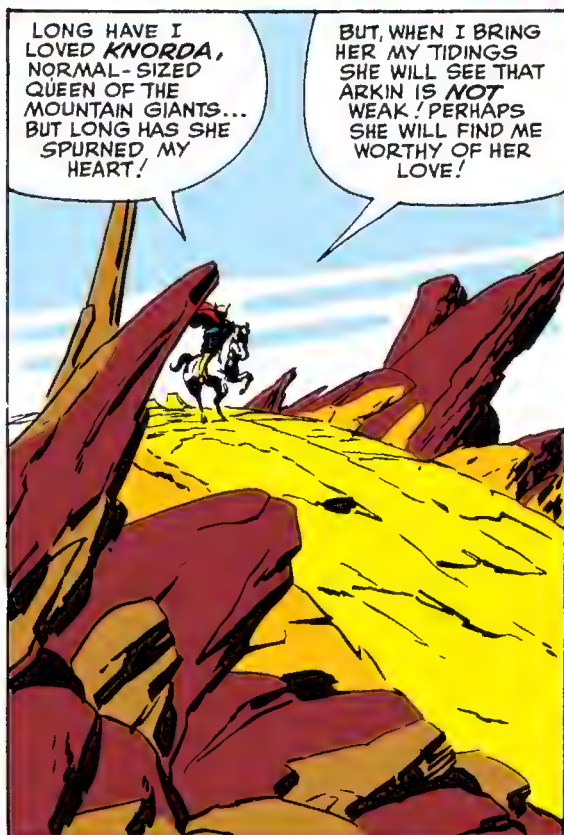
PRESENTED BY THE GREATEST
NAMES IN ILLO-DRAMATICS:

STAN LEE, Author
JACK KIRBY, Illustrator
VINCE COLLETTA,

Delineator
SAM ROSEN, Letterer

LIVING PROOF OF THE TITANIC
TALENT WHICH HAS MADE THIS
SERIES SUCH A SMASHING SUCCESS!

Another
MIGHTY
MARVEL Saga
of Epic Adventure
and Powerful
Pageantry!



TIME ENOUGH TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS LATER! NOW I MUST ACT! FIRST, WE SHALL DISPOSE OF THOR... AND THEN... ALL ASGARD SHALL BE OURS!

I CARE NOT WHAT FATE BEFALLS THE SON OF ODIN... NOR THE LAND OF ASGARD! I CARE ONLY TO WIN THE HEART OF QUEEN KNORDA!



LATER, THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN SLOWLY RIDES ALONG THE MOUNTAIN ROAD WHICH LEADS AWAY FROM THE LAND OF HIS BIRTH...

THE TRAIL I FOLLOW IS FRAUGHT WITH DANGER... BUT AN IMMORTAL OF ASGARD MUST SHOW NO FEAR! NO MATTER WHAT BEFALLS, I AM THOR, SON OF NOBLE ODIN!



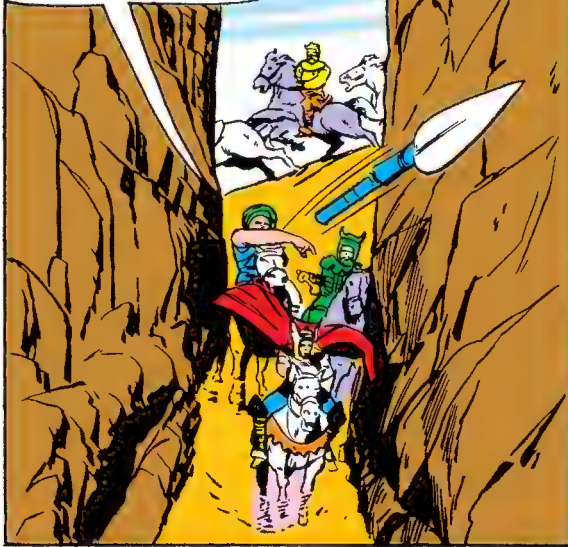
THEN, SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING... THE GRAVEST DANGER OF ALL APPEARS, AS A HEAVILY-ARMED BAND OF MOUNTAIN GIANTS ATTACKS THE LONE WARRIOR IN AN AWESOME ASSAULT FROM AMBUSH!

RIDE, MY POWERFUL LEGIONS! SHOW THE BRASH YOUNG THUNDER GOD NO MERCY! ASGARD MUST BE MINE!

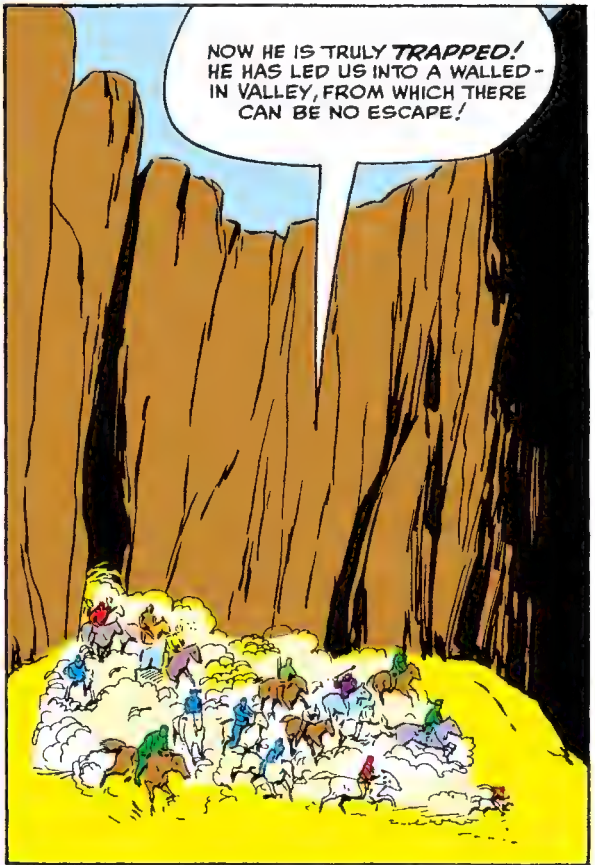


BUT, NOT FOR NAUGHT HAS THE PROWESS AND DARING OF THOR LIVED IN LEGEND FOR ALL THESE AGES! FEARLESSLY, AS THOUGH FOLLOWED BY HIS OWN LOYAL LEGIONS... THE GOLDEN-HAIRED IMMORTAL THUNDERS THROUGH A NARROW CANYON PASS... HIS SMALLER STEED RACING LIKE THE WIND WHILE HIS LARGER PURSUERS SLOW DOWN IN ORDER TO ENTER!

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE US, PUNY ONE! THE MORE YOU FLEE, THE SWEETER WILL BE THE FRUITS OF OUR ULTIMATE VICTORY!



NOW HE IS TRULY TRAPPED! HE HAS LED US INTO A WALLED-IN VALLEY, FROM WHICH THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE!



STOP HIM... BEFORE HE ENTERS THE MOUTH OF THAT SMALL CAVE! WE CANNOT FOLLOW IN SO LIMITED A SPACE!

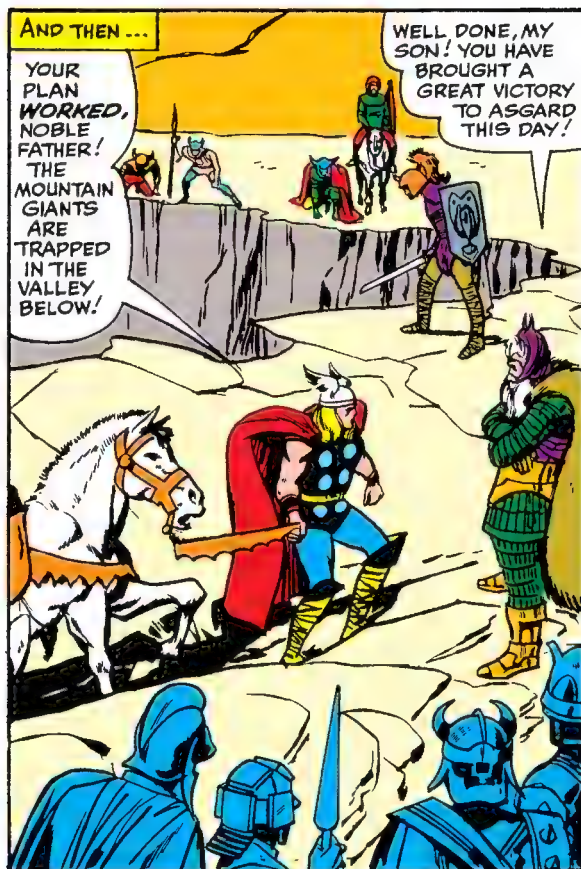
BAH! IT MATTERS NOT! IF HE REMAINS WITHIN, WE SHALL STARVE HIM OUT! PANIC HAS MADE A FOOL OF THE SMALL ONE!



BUT, THE GLOATING MOUNTAIN GIANTS MIGHT NOT FEEL SO CONFIDENT IF THEY COULD LOOK WITHIN THE CAVE, AND SEE...

THIS NARROW TUNNEL IS JUST WIDE ENOUGH TO ALLOW MY STALLION AND ME TO REACH THE TOP OF THE CANYON!





THUS, THE WARRIORS OF ASGARD ADD ANOTHER VICTORY TO THEIR GLORIOUS HISTORY! BUT, NEXT ISSUE, BE PREPARED FOR A SURPRISE! FOR YOU WILL READ THE NEVER-BEFORE-REVEALED ACCOUNT OF THE TIME ODIN **LOST** A CRUCIAL BATTLE... THE TIME HIS LEGIONS WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT **DEFEAT**! AND NOW, UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, MAY THE BLESSINGS OF ASGARD BE SHOWERED UPON YOU!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY *WITH*



THE
MIGHTY

THOR

110
NOV.

SEE:
MIGHTY THOR
BATTLING
AGAINST THE
LEGIONS OF
ASGARD!

IN WHICH THE DESPERATE THUNDER GOD FINDS...
"EVERY HAND AGAINST HIM!"



SEE:
THE MYSTERIOUS
MR. HYDE!
THE SERPENTINE
COBRA!
THE SINISTER
LOKI!
THE NOBLE
ODIN!

THE MIGHTY **THOR!**

BACK AGAIN...
MORE DANGEROUS
THAN EVER!



THE
COBRA



and
**MR.
HYDE!**

**"EVERY HAND
AGAINST HIM!"**

THERE IS AN
AURA OF EVIL
OVER THE CITY!
I CAN SENSE IT!
IT IS HIDING...
WAITING TO
STRIKE!

ALSO FEATURING:
THE INHUMAN
VILLAINY
OF
LOKI!



SPECTACULARLY WRITTEN
BY:

STAN LEE

MAGNIFICENTLY DRAWN
BY:

JACK KIRBY

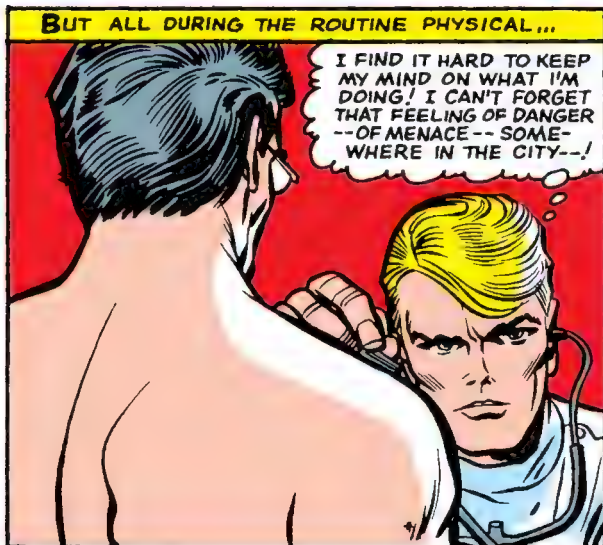
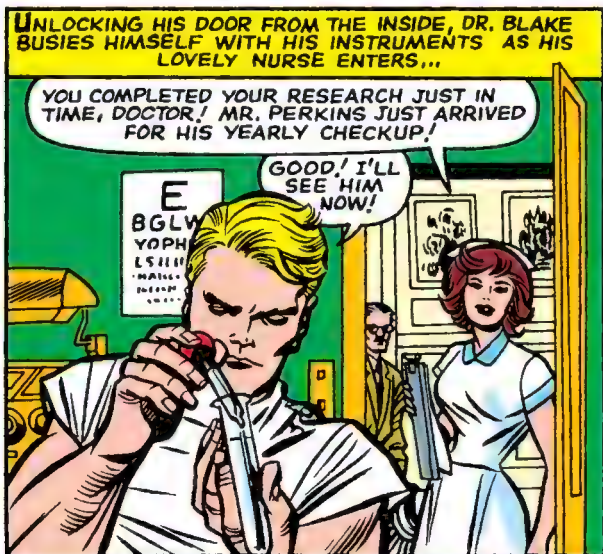
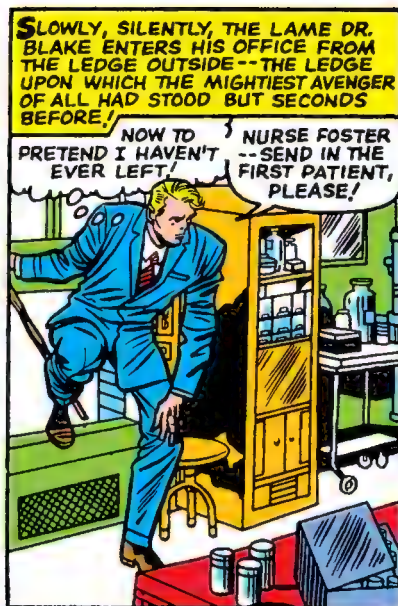
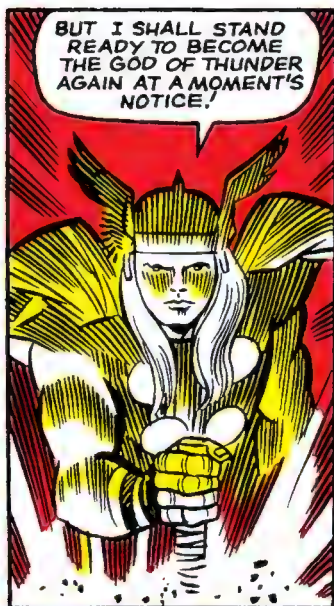
POWERFULLY INKED
BY:

CHIC STONE

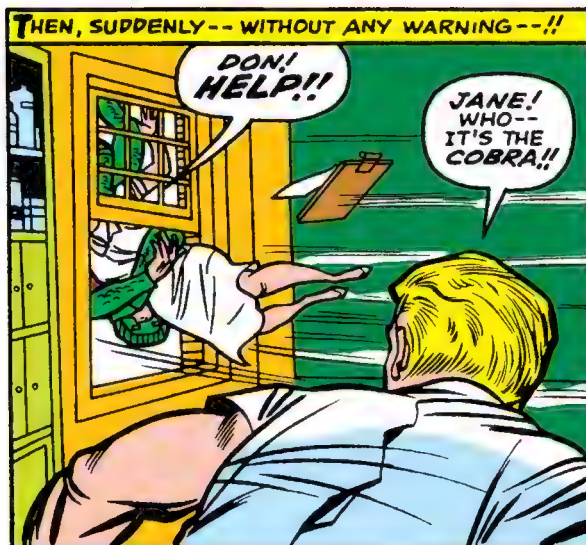
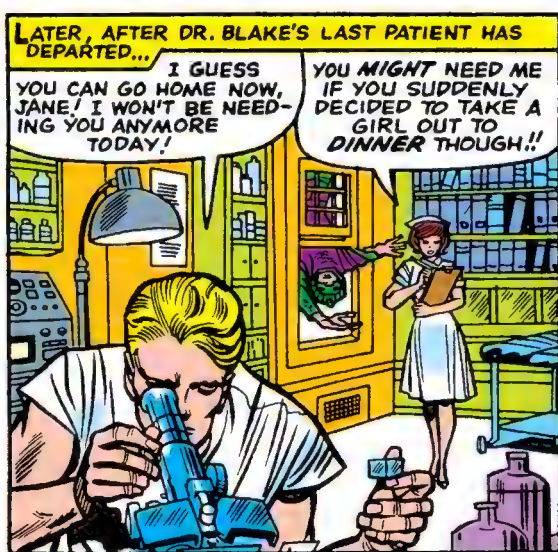
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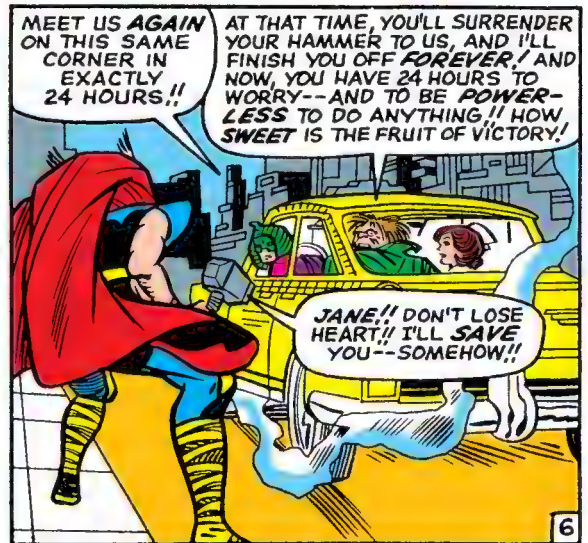
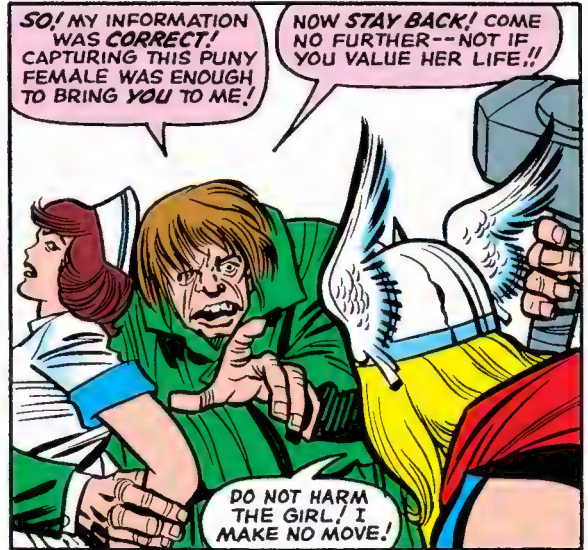
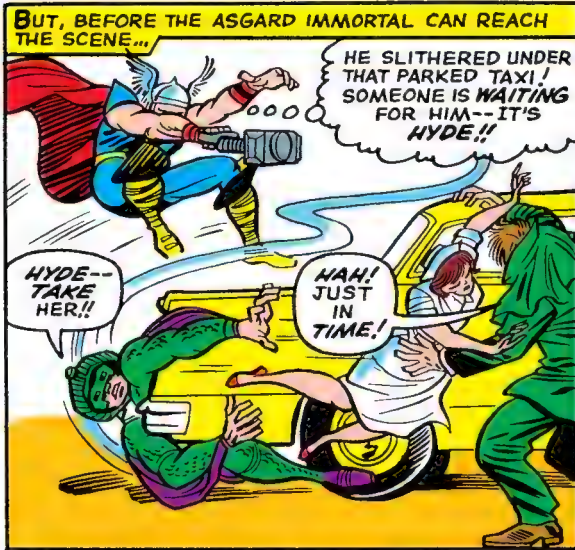
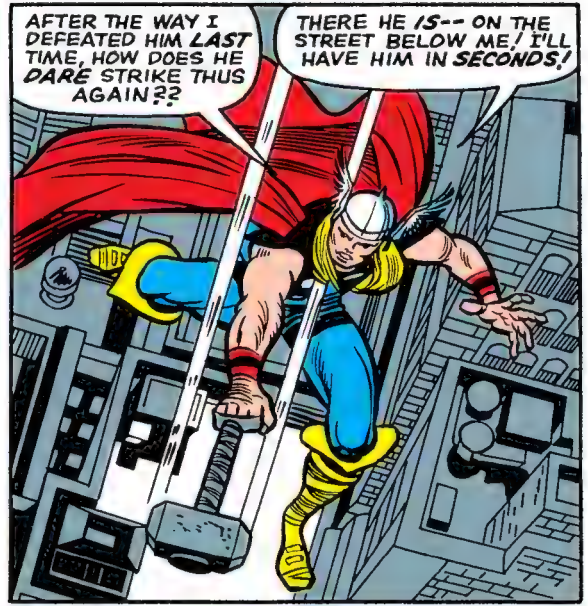
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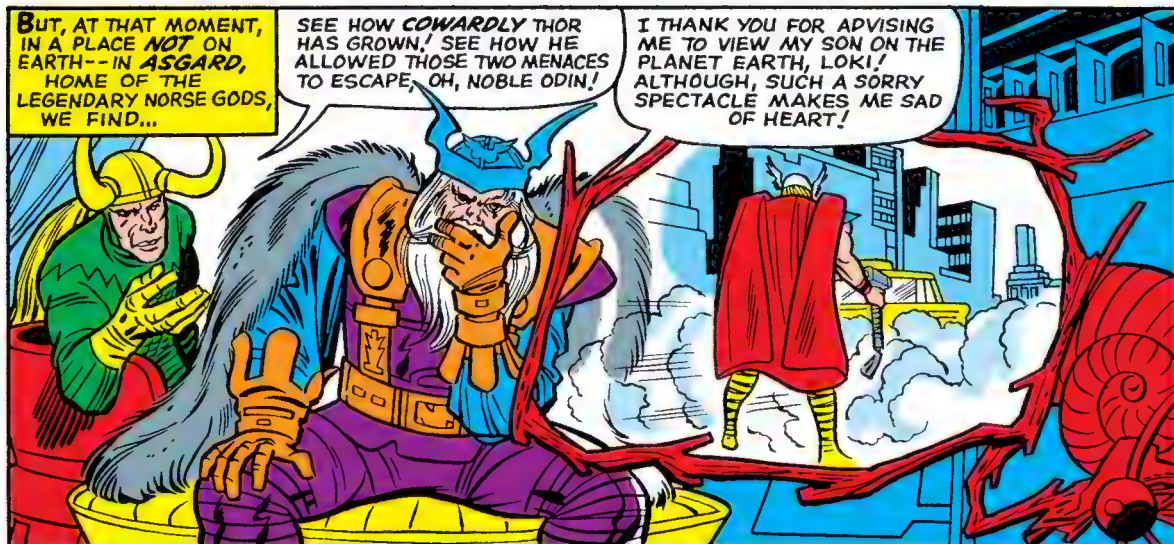
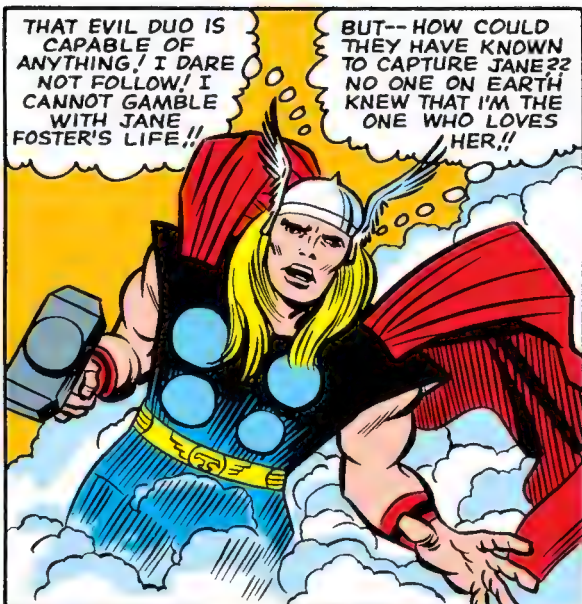


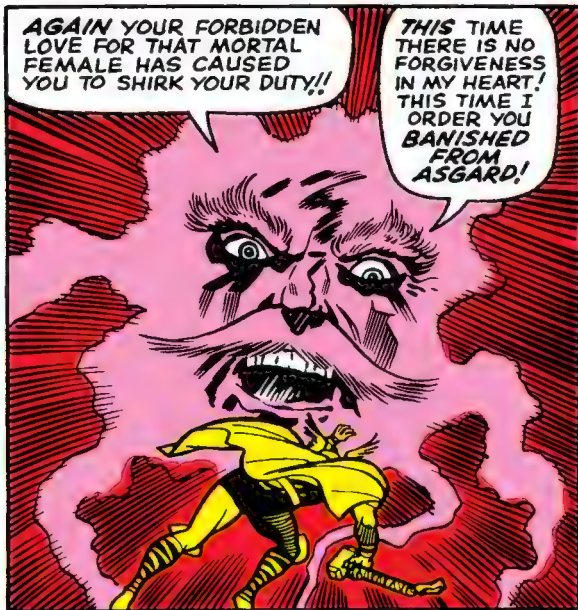






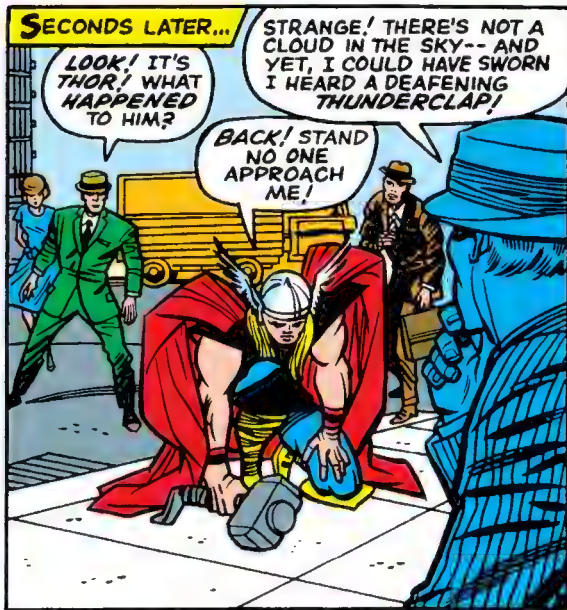






AGAIN YOUR FORBIDDEN LOVE FOR THAT MORTAL FEMALE HAS CAUSED YOU TO SHIRK YOUR DUTY!!

THIS TIME THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS IN MY HEART! THIS TIME I ORDER YOU BANISHED FROM ASGARD!



SECONDS LATER...

LOOK! IT'S THOR! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

STRANGE! THERE'S NOT A CLOUD IN THE SKY-- AND YET, I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD A DEAFENING THUNDERCLAP!

BACK! STAND NO ONE APPROACH ME!

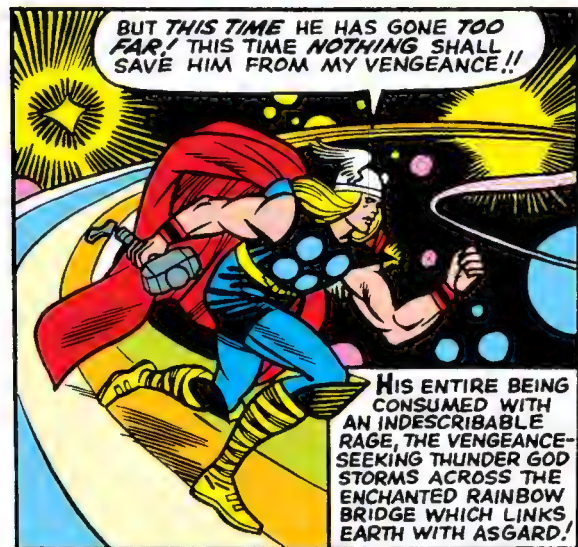


I SUDDENLY REALIZE WHO MY TRUE FOE IS!! AT LAST MY EYES ARE OPENED!

I SHOULD HAVE SUSPECTED SOONER! THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS OF THE LOVE THOR FEELS FOR JANE FOSTER! ONLY ONE WHO COULD BE BEHIND HYDE AND THE COBRA--!

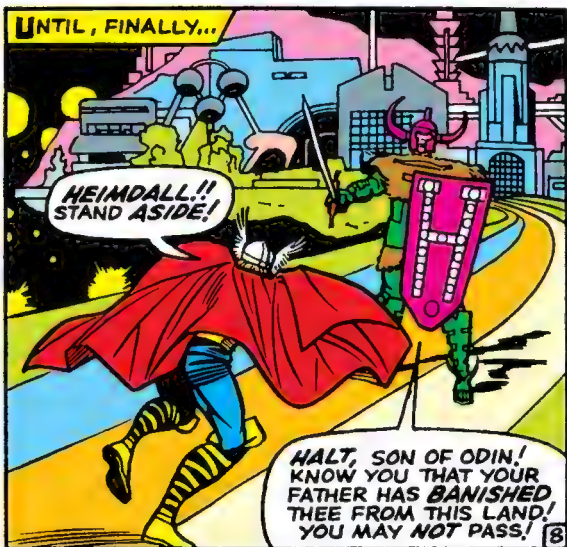


ONLY MY EVIL ARCH-ENEMY-- MY HALF-BROTHER-- LOKI!



BUT THIS TIME HE HAS GONE TOO FAR! THIS TIME NOTHING SHALL SAVE HIM FROM MY VENGEANCE!!

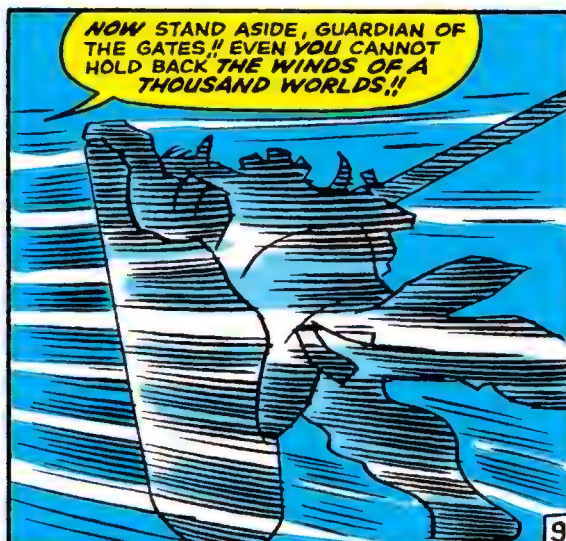
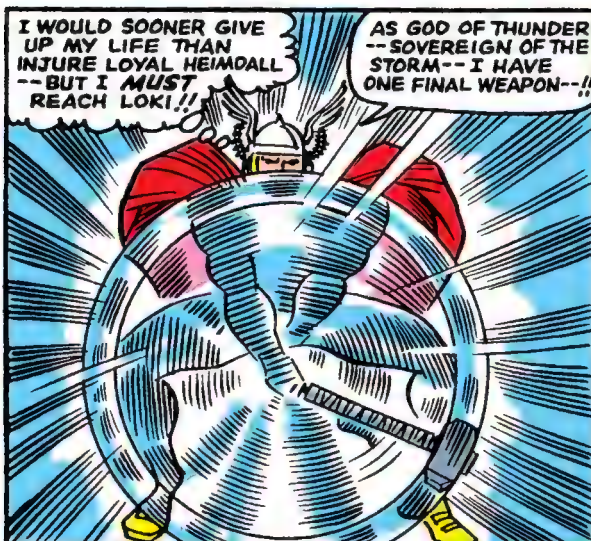
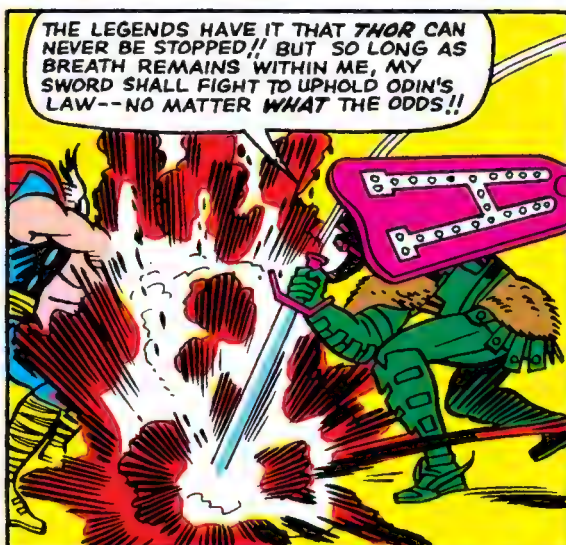
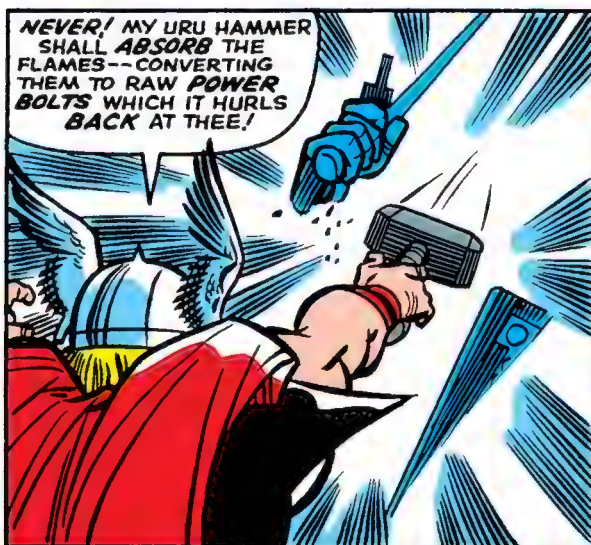
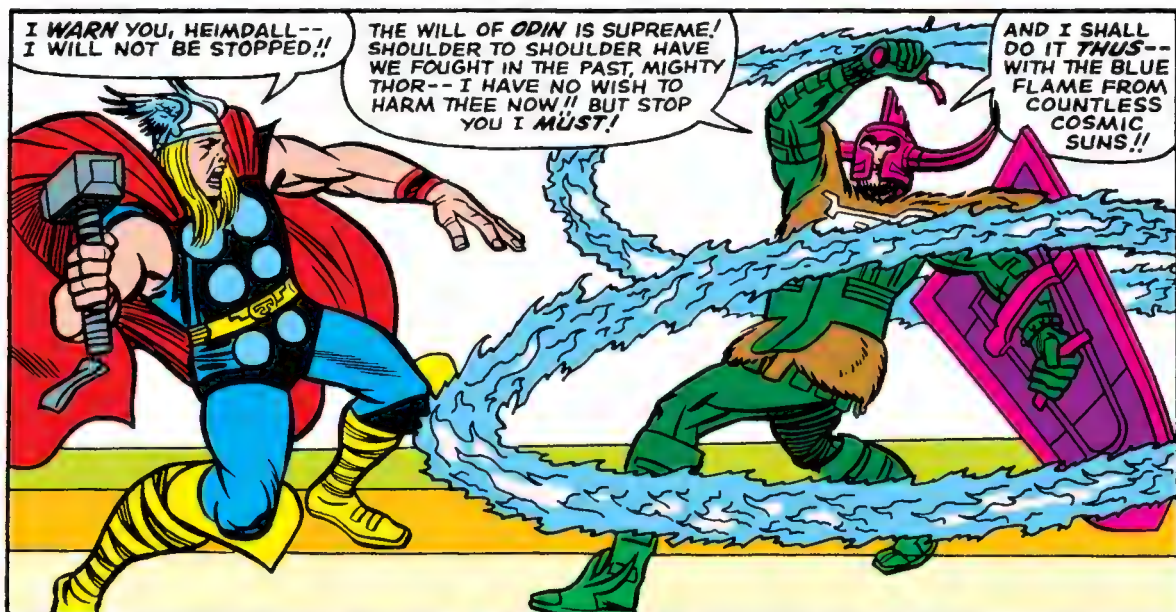
HIS ENTIRE BEING CONSUMED WITH AN INDESCRIBABLE RAGE, THE VENGEANCE-SEEKING THUNDER GOD STORMS ACROSS THE ENCHANTED RAINBOW BRIDGE WHICH LINKS EARTH WITH ASGARD!



UNTIL, FINALLY...

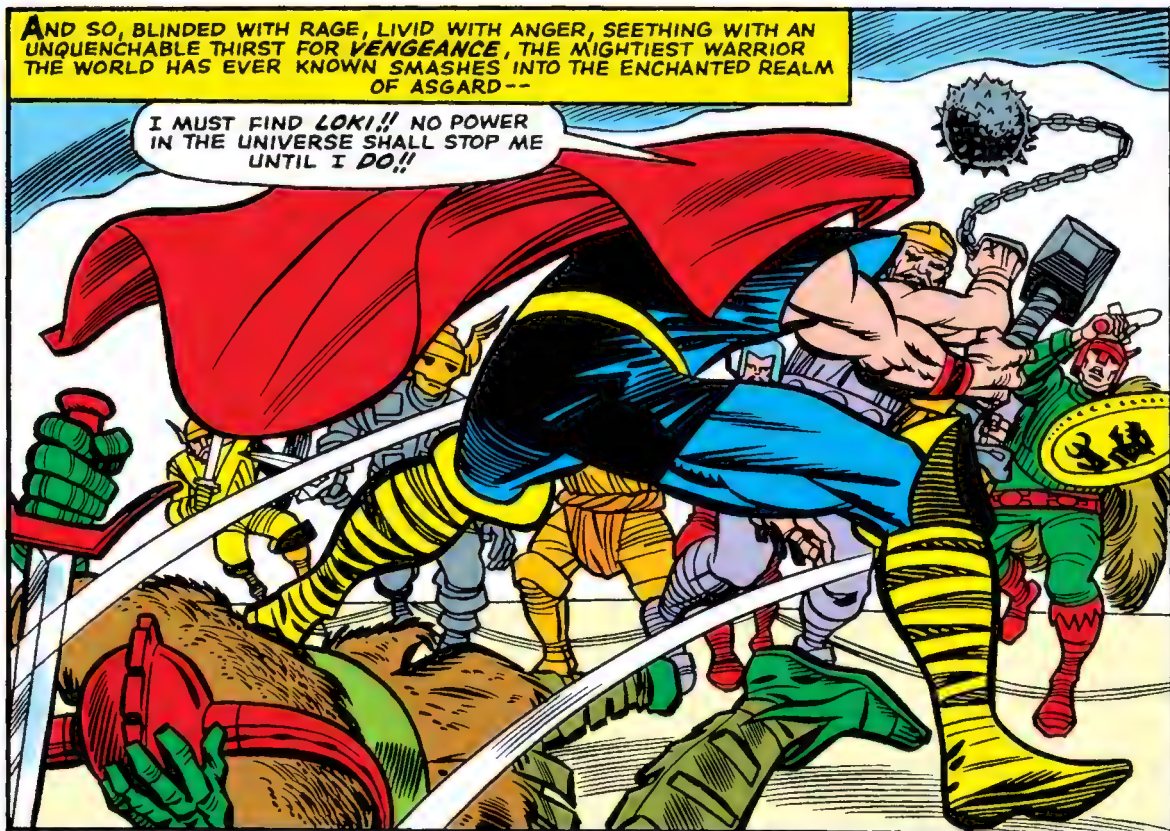
HEIMDALL!! STAND ASIDE!

HALT, SON OF ODIN! KNOW YOU THAT YOUR FATHER HAS BANISHED THEE FROM THIS LAND! YOU MAY NOT PASS!



AND SO, BLINDED WITH RAGE, LIVID WITH ANGER, SEETHING WITH AN UNQUENCHABLE THIRST FOR VENGEANCE, THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN SMASHES INTO THE ENCHANTED REALM OF ASGARD--

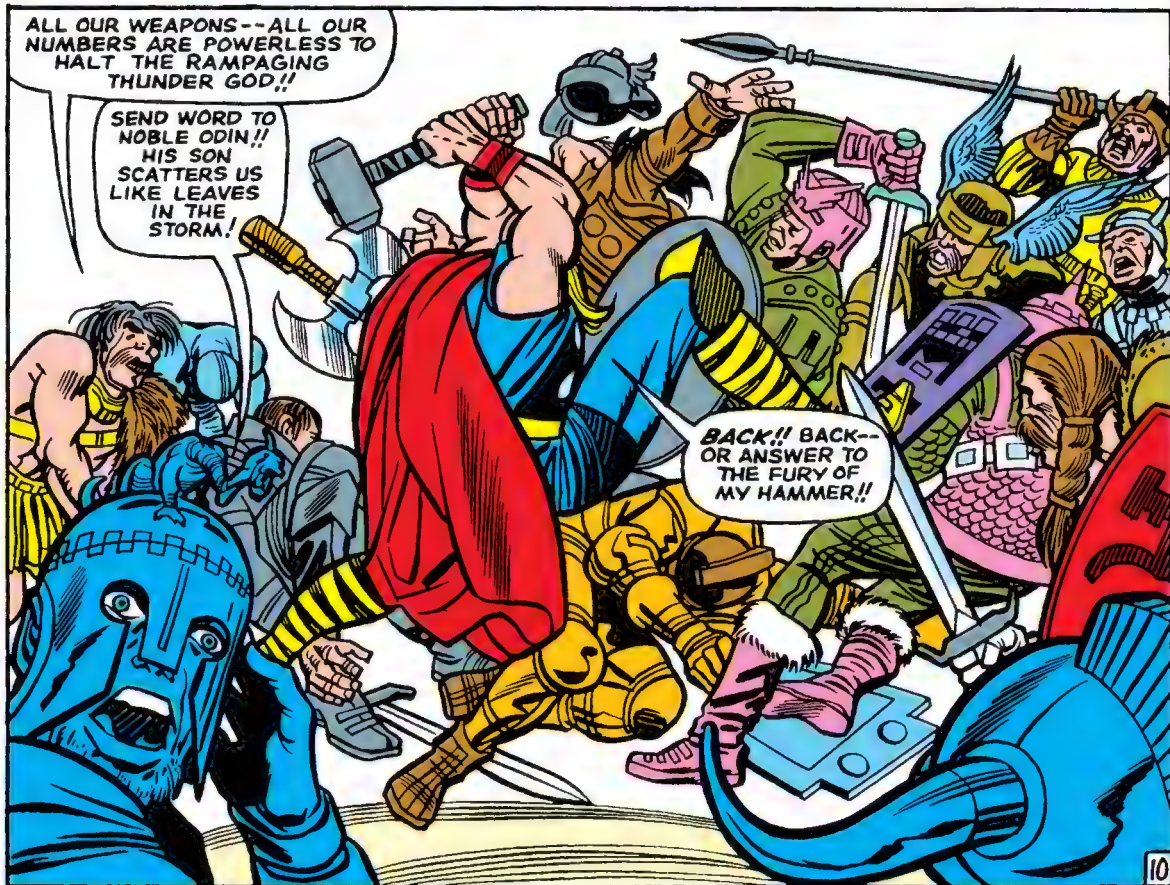
I MUST FIND LOKI!! NO POWER IN THE UNIVERSE SHALL STOP ME UNTIL I DO!!

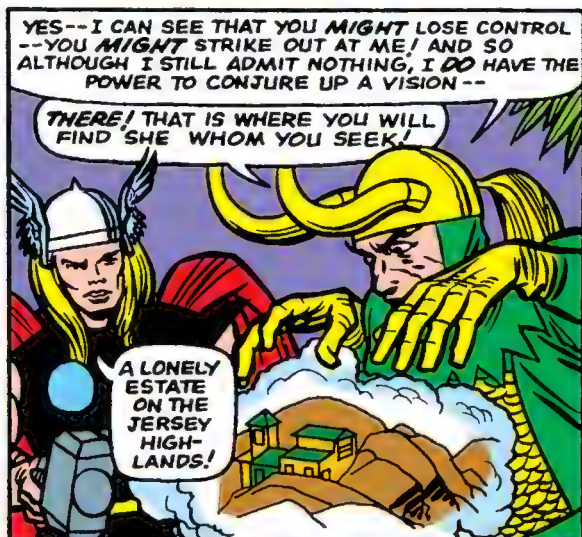
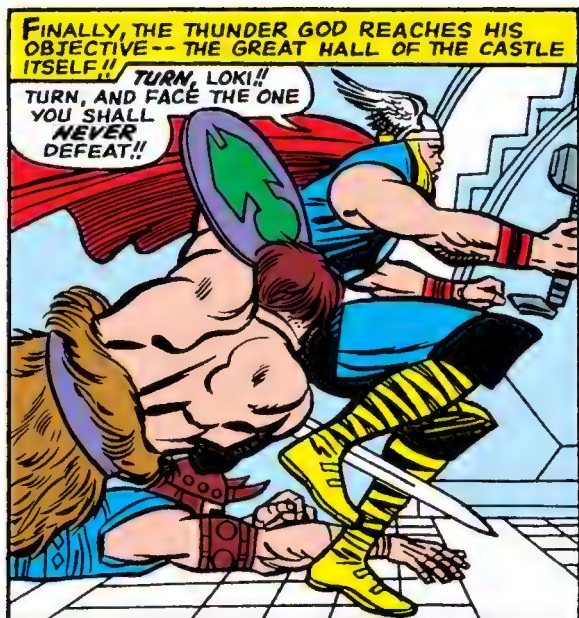


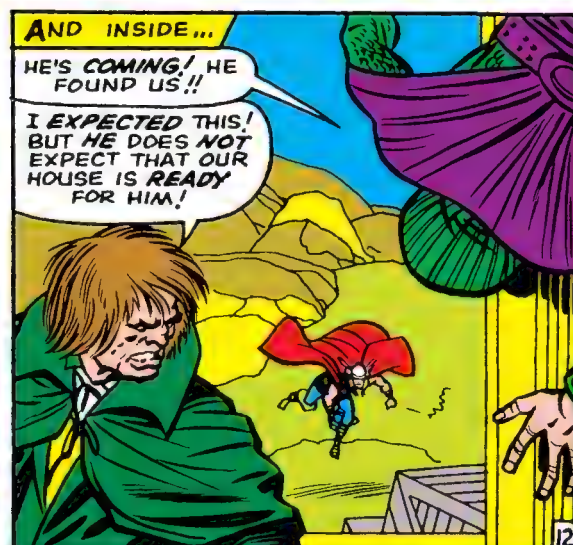
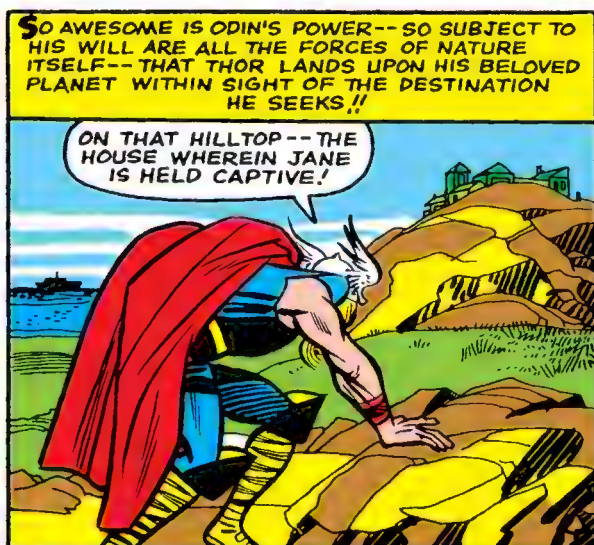
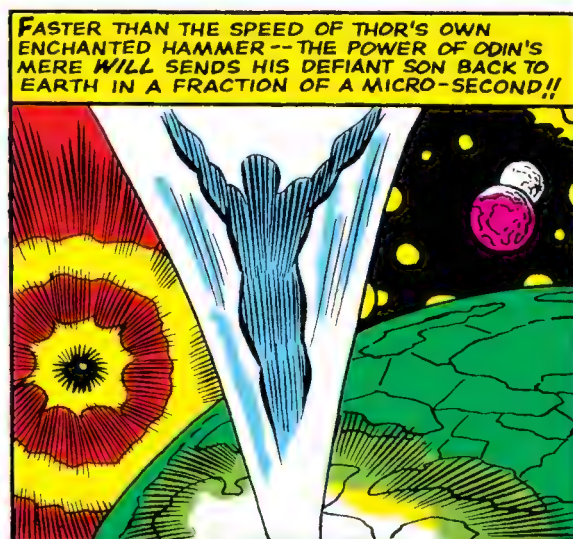
ALL OUR WEAPONS--ALL OUR NUMBERS ARE POWERLESS TO HALT THE RAMPAGE THUNDER GOD!!

SEND WORD TO NOBLE ODIN!! HIS SON SCATTERS US LIKE LEAVES IN THE STORM!

BACK!! BACK--OR ANSWER TO THE FURY OF MY HAMMER!!

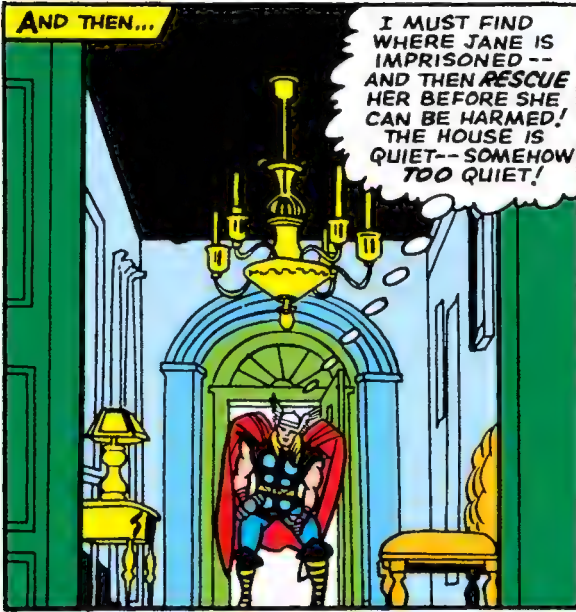






AND THEN...

I MUST FIND
WHERE JANE IS
IMPRISONED --
AND THEN RESCUE
HER BEFORE SHE
CAN BE HARMED!
THE HOUSE IS
QUIET-- SOMEHOW
TOO QUIET!



BUT SUDDENLY...

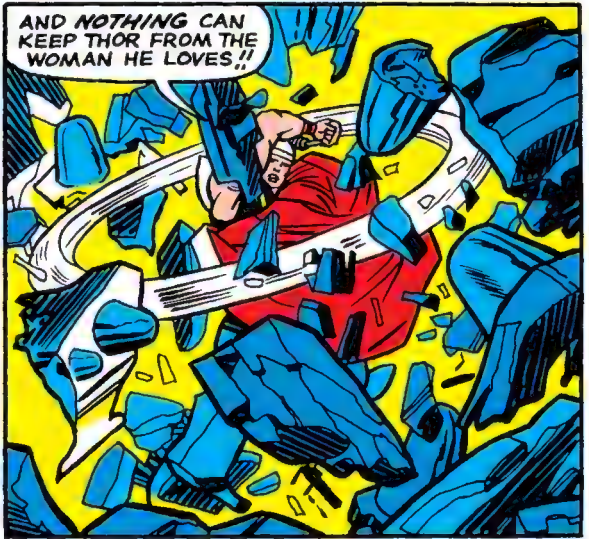
IT'S A TRAP! THE
WALLS ARE REVERS-
ING THEMSELVES--
TURNING INSIDE OUT!!!



THEY'RE CLOSING
IN ON ME!!! BUT
NOTHING CAN CRUSH
MY URU HAMMER!!



AND NOTHING CAN
KEEP THOR FROM THE
WOMAN HE LOVES!!



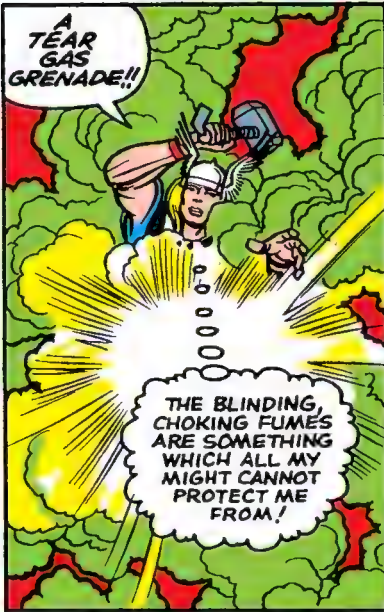
SOMETHING SLITHERED
PAST ME-- ALMOST TOO
FAST TO SEE! IT'S THE
COBRA!!

LOKI MUST HAVE IN-
CREASED HIS POWER--
HE WAS NEVER THAT
FAST BEFORE!



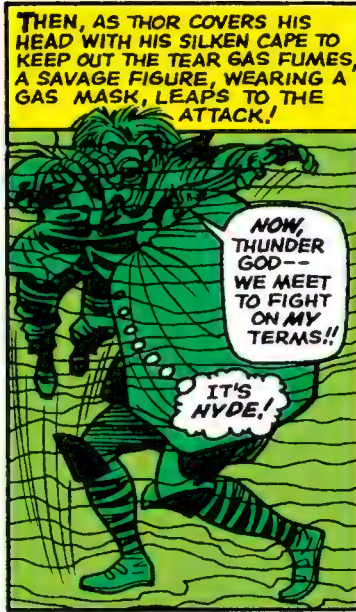
MISSED HIM! HE'S
ESCAPING THRU THAT
TRAPDOOR! BUT--
WHAT DID HE DROP
BEHIND HIM--?





A
TEAR
GAS
GRENADE!!

THE BLINDING,
CHOKING FUMES
ARE SOMETHING
WHICH ALL MY
MIGHT CANNOT
PROTECT ME
FROM!



THEN, AS THOR COVERS HIS
HEAD WITH HIS SILKEN CAPE TO
KEEP OUT THE TEAR GAS FUMES,
A SAVAGE FIGURE, WEARING A
GAS MASK, LEAPS TO THE
ATTACK!

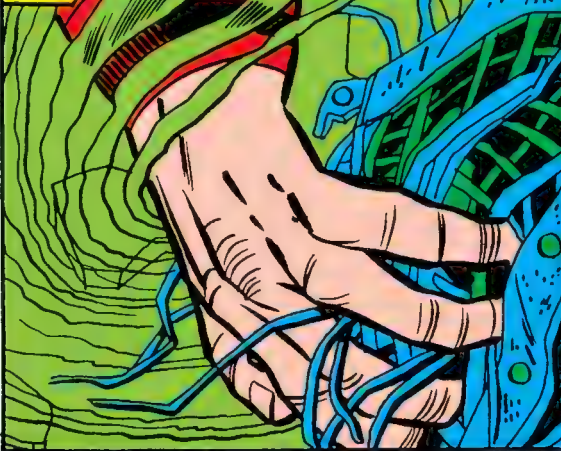
NOW,
THUNDER
GOD--
WE MEET
TO FIGHT
ON MY
TERMS!!

IT'S
HYDE!

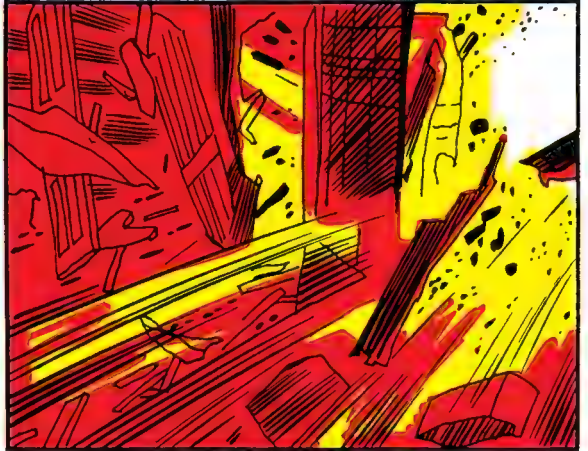


UNNNH!! THE FORCE OF HIS
COWARDLY BLOW WAS STRONGER
THAN I EXPECTED! IT CAUSED ME
TO DROP MY HAMMER!
HIS STRENGTH,
TOO, HAS BEEN
DOUBLED! THIS
ALSO MUST BE
LOKI'S
DOING!!

DESPERATELY CLUTCHING TO KEEP HIS BALANCE,
THE STEEL-MUSCLED FINGERS OF THE THUNDER
GOD RIP A GRID RIGHT OUT OF THE WALL BEHIND
HIM...

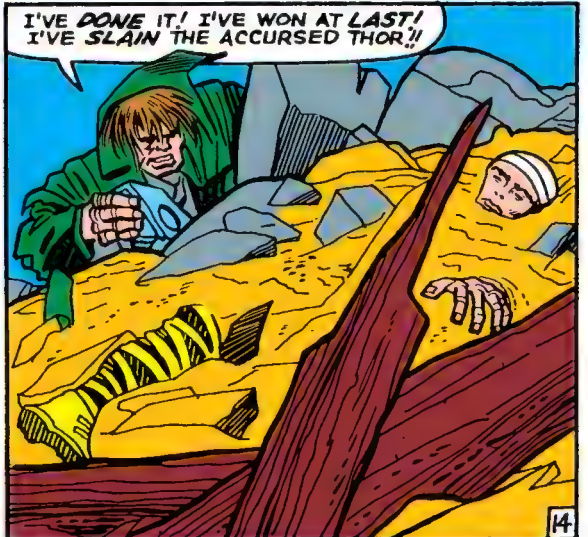


BUT UNWITTINGLY, THE MIGHTY THOR HAS
EXPOSED A LIVE PIPE WHICH IGNITES WITH THE
THICK TEAR GAS FUMES, CAUSING A DEAFENING
EXPLOSION--



AND WHEN THE SMOKE HAS FINALLY CLEARED...

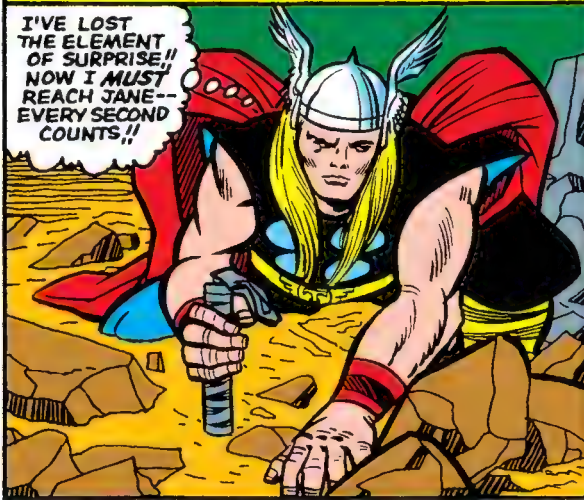
MY GAS MASK SAVED ME
FROM THE DEADLY FUMES!
BUT WHAT OF THOR?



I'VE DONE IT! I'VE WON AT LAST!
I'VE SLAIN THE ACCURSED THOR!!

WITH A FIENDISH CHORTLE, THE MACABRE MR. HYDE RUSHES OFF TO TELL THE NEWS TO HIS REPTILIAN PARTNER, LITTLE DREAMING THAT FUMES WHICH WOULD KILL A DOZEN HUMANS CAN ONLY TEMPORARILY STUN THE MIGHTY THOR!

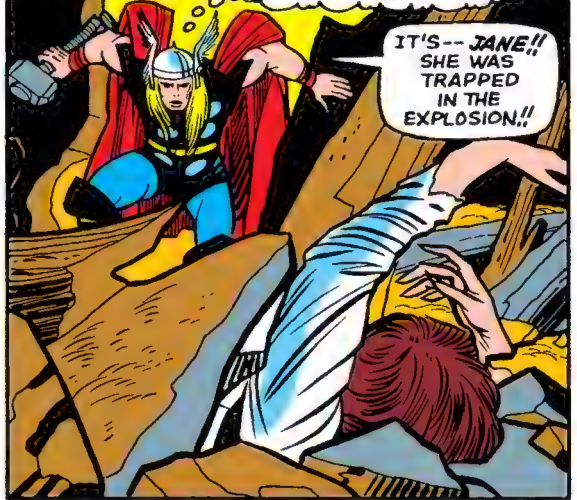
I'VE LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!! NOW I MUST REACH JANE-- EVERY SECOND COUNTS!!



AND THEN, THE STARTLED THUNDER GOD FINDS WHAT HE SEEKS SOONER THAN HE EXPECTED--

SOMETHING LYING THERE --IN THE RUBBLE!

IT'S-- JANE!! SHE WAS TRAPPED IN THE EXPLOSION!!



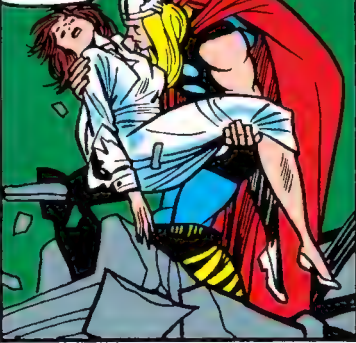
BUT THOUGH THE SON OF ODIN WAS MERELY STUNNED, JANE FOSTER IS BUT A FRAIL MORTAL, AND SO--

SHE'S BARELY BREATHING!!

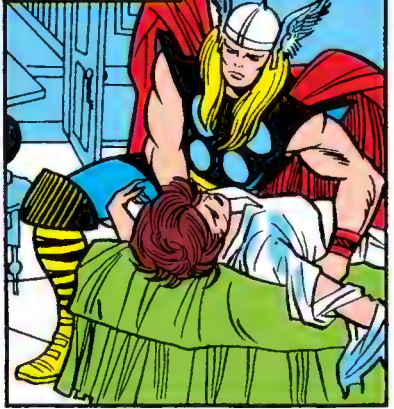


WITH HANDS THAT CAN SHATTER A TWO-TON BOULDER, MIGHTY THOR GENTLY LIFTS THE MOTIONLESS GIRL, AND-- THE PART OF HIM WHICH IS DR. BLAKE SOON REALIZES--

HER CONDITION IS CRITICAL! SHE IS DYING!

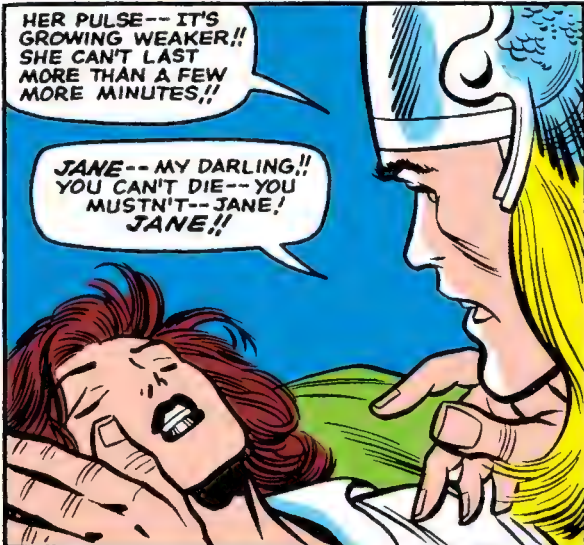


FORGETTING HIS ENEMIES -- FORGETTING THE DANGERS THAT AWAIT HIM -- THE HEAVY-HEARTED IMMORTAL SILENTLY PLACES THE INJURED GIRL UPON A COUCH...



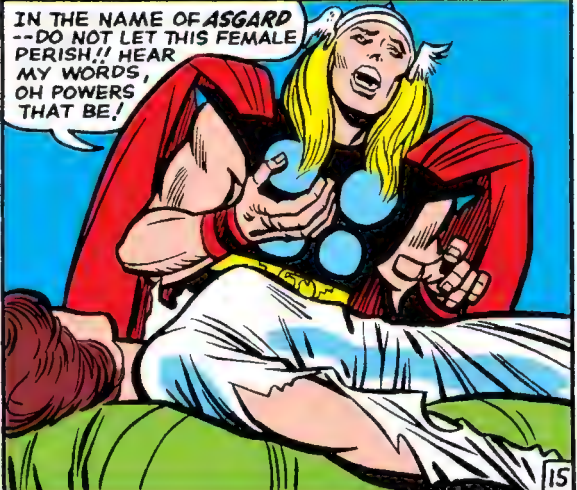
HER PULSE-- IT'S GROWING WEAKER!! SHE CAN'T LAST MORE THAN A FEW MORE MINUTES!!

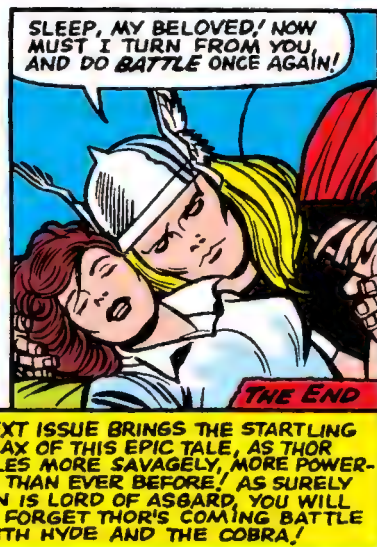
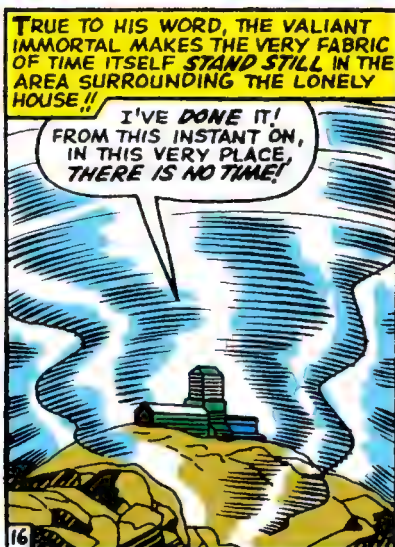
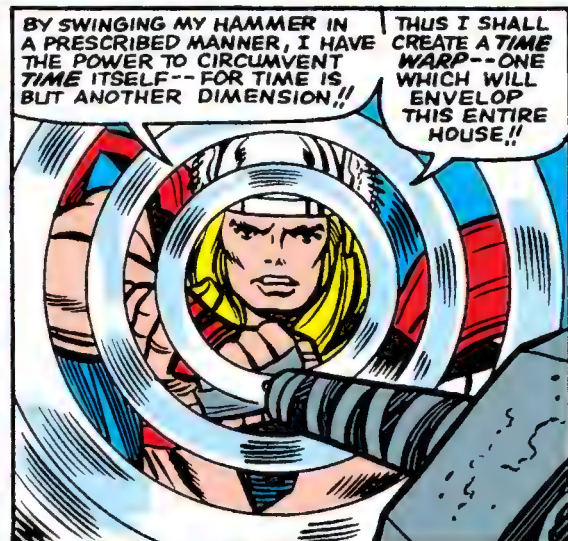
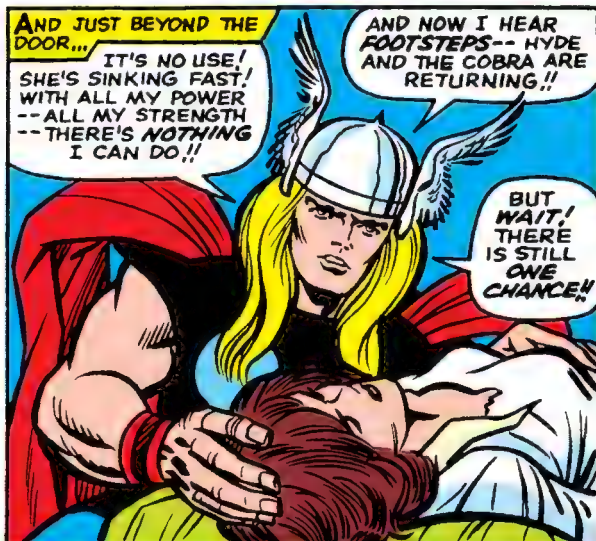
JANE-- MY DARLING!! YOU CAN'T DIE-- YOU MUSTN'T-- JANE, JANE!!



THEN, THE ANGUISHED WARRIOR RAISES HIS EYES TO THE HEAVENS, AND CRIES OUT--

IN THE NAME OF ASGARD --DO NOT LET THIS FEMALE PERISH!! HEAR MY WORDS, OH POWERS THAT BE!





A MARVEL MASTERWORK PiN-UP



*May the eyes of Asgard
Smile down on thee---
Thor*

Tales of
ASGARD
HOME
OF THE
MIGHTY
NORSE
GODS!

the **DEFEAT OF ODIN!**

THE *ENEMY*
APPROACHES, SIRE!

WARRIORS,
ASSEMBLE!
PREPARE
FOR BATTLE!

IN WHICH NOBLE
ODIN, LORD OF
ASGARD, MONARCH
OF THE LEGENDARY
NORSE GODS, SUFFERS
HIS FIRST DEFEAT!!
OR-- DOES HE??

ANOTHER
TOWERING TRIUMPH
BY MARVEL'S TALENTED
TITANIC TEAM:

STAN LEE
WRITER

JACK KIRBY
ILLUSTRATOR

VINCE COLLETTA
DELINEATOR

ART SIMEK
LETTERER

X-814

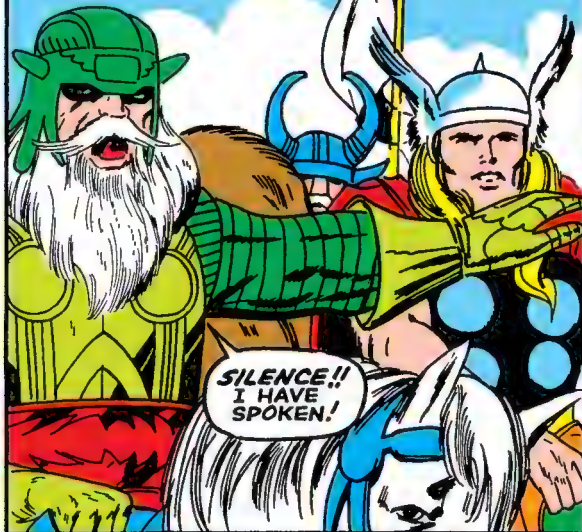
1

RAMPK THE REBEL IS DEAD!! RAMPK, THE KING WHO HAS DARED TO DEFEY THE RULE OF ODIN FOR AGES! RAMPK, THE KING WHOSE LEGIONS HAVE LONG BEEN AT WAR WITH ASGARD! AND NOW, RAMPK'S SON, PRINCE RIVVAK, TAKES UP THE BATTLE...

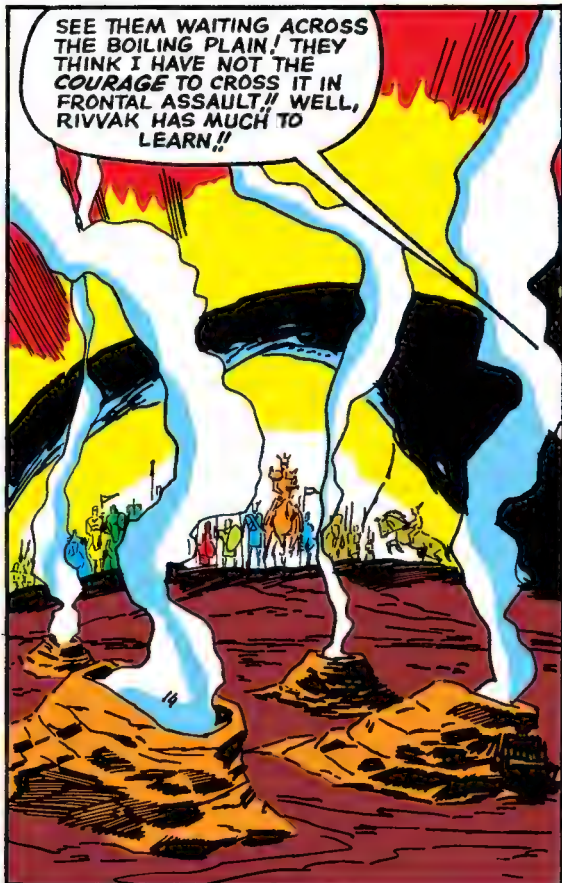
WE SHALL ATTACK THE ARMY OF PRINCE RIVVAK **HEAD ON!** AT MY COMMAND, WE SHALL CHARGE ACROSS THE BOILING PLAIN!!

BUT, MOST HONORED FATHER, WHY ATTACK THEM WHERE THEY ARE **STRONGEST??** WHY NOT STRIKE AT THEIR **FLANK?**

SILENCE!!
I HAVE SPOKEN!



SEE THEM WAITING ACROSS THE BOILING PLAIN! THEY THINK I HAVE NOT THE **COURAGE** TO CROSS IT IN **FRONTAL ASSAULT!!** WELL, RIVVAK HAS MUCH TO **LEARN!!**



AND WHAT OF YOUNG PRINCE RIVVAK, FACING HIS FIRST BATTLE AS LEADER OF HIS LEGIONS?

OUR PRINCE IS ASHEN PALE! METHINKS HE HAS NO STOMACH FOR YON COMING BATTLE!

I AM SICK WITH FEAR AT THE THOUGHT OF FACING ODIN'S WARRIORS!! AND YET, I MUST NOT SHIRK MY DUTY!

OFFICERS! OUR TRIAL IS AT HAND!



DIRECT YOUR MEN TO STATION THEMSELVES IN BATTLE FORMATION!

METHINKS HIS VOICE SHOWS SIGNS OF **FALTERING!**

CAN ONE SO YOUNG -- ONE SO UNSURE -- LEAD US AGAINST SO MIGHTY A FOE??

AND YET, WE HAVE NO CHOICE! WE MUST **OBEY** THE YOUTHFUL RIVVAK, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!



AND THEN, A ROARING, EAR-SPLITTING, REVERBERATING CRY RINGS OUT FROM THE ARMY OF ASGARD AS PRINCE RIVVAK AND HIS WARRIORS PREPARE TO MEET THE MOST POWERFUL LEGIONS OF ALL TIME!

ATTACK!!

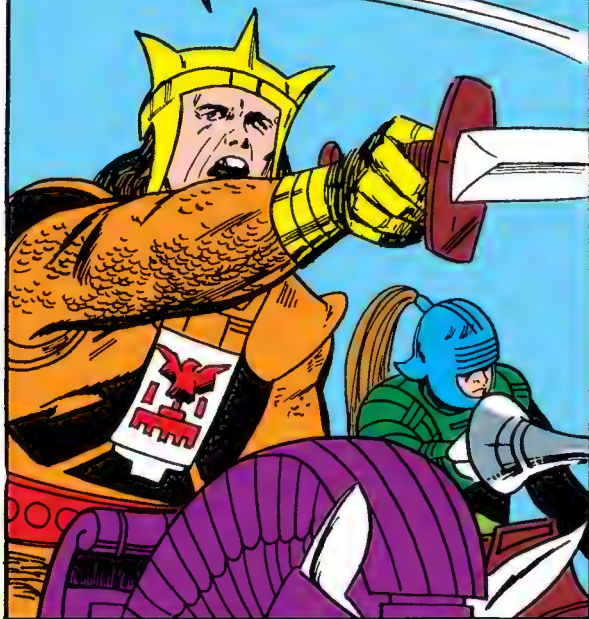
**FORWARD!!
FOR
ASGARD!!**



AND, ACROSS THE VAST BOILING PLAIN...

LANCES AT THE READY!!

CHARGE!



BUT, BEFORE THE TWO ARMIES CAN MEET, THE SEETHING POTHOLES BENEATH THEIR FEET SUDDENLY ERUPT, AS GIGANTIC FLAMING GEYSERS SHOOT SKYWARD!

LOOK TO YOUR
STEEDS, MEN OF
ASGARD!! THEY HAVE
NOT BEEN TINGED
WITH IMMORTALITY,
AS WE HAVE! THE
FLAMES MUST NOT
TOUCH THEM!





THE FIERY GEYSERS
SHOOT UPWARD
WHEREVER WE RIDE
--AS THOUGH THEY
HAVE WILLS OF
THEIR OWN!

BUT *NONE*
APPEAR
BENEATH THE
ADVANCING
WARRIORS OF
RIVVAK!



NO WEAPONS IN THE
UNIVERSE CAN TURN
BACK OUR CHARGE--
BUT WE DARE NOT
ENDANGER OUR
VALIANT STEEDS
WITH THESE
BLAZING GEYSERS!!

TRUMPETER!! FOR
THE FIRST TIME
SINCE THE DAWN
OF MAN--*SOUND*
THE RETREAT!!

ALMOST UNABLE TO BELIEVE THEIR EARS,
THE STARTLED LEGIONS OF ODIN RESPOND TO
THE GRIM TRUMPET CALL, WHEELING ABOUT IN
THEIR TRACKS AND RETREATING TOWARDS
ASGARD!!



WHILE THE YOUNG PRINCE, FLUSHED WITH TRIUMPH,
PURSUES THEM TO THE EDGE OF THE FLAMING
GEYSERS!

FLEE, SOLDIERS
OF ASGARD! EVEN *NATURE*
CONSPIRES AGAINST YOU!!

NEVER AGAIN SHALL I
TREMBLE WITH FEAR
BEFORE AN ENEMY!
FOR NOW I KNOW
THAT *NO ONE* IS UN-
BEATABLE! THERE IS
NO BATTLE THAT
CANNOT BE WON!

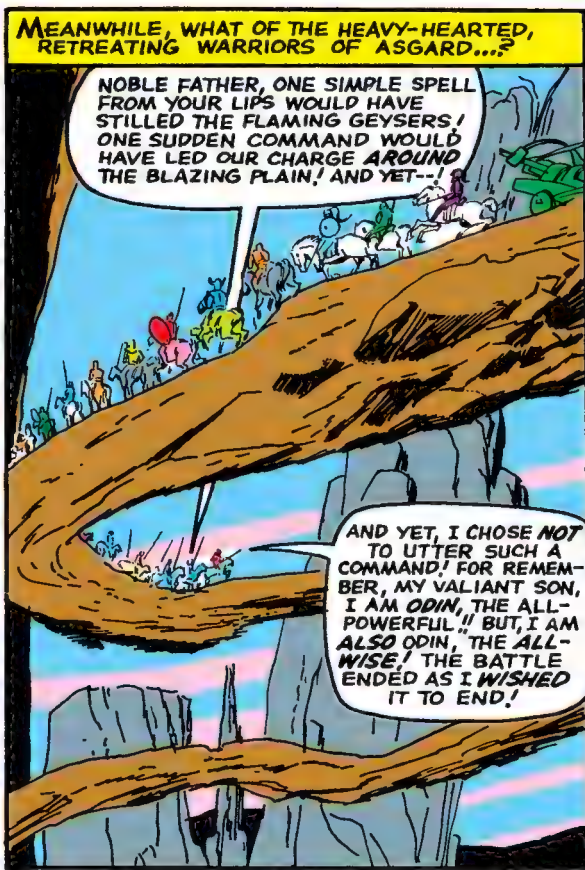




HAIL TO THE FEARLESS RIVVAK!!
HAIL OUR PRINCE!!

RIVVAK THE FEARLESS HAS TURNED BACK MIGHTY ODIN!!

MY MEN ACCLAIM ME! HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS **THE FEARLESS!**



MEANWHILE, WHAT OF THE HEAVY-HEARTED, RETREATING WARRIORS OF ASGARD...?

NOBLE FATHER, ONE SIMPLE SPELL FROM YOUR LIPS WOULD HAVE STILLLED THE FLAMING GEYSERS! ONE SUDDEN COMMAND WOULD HAVE LED OUR CHARGE AROUND THE BLAZING PLAIN! AND YET--!

AND YET, I CHOSE NOT TO UTTER SUCH A COMMAND, FOR REMEMBER, MY VALIANT SON, I AM ODIN, THE ALL-POWERFUL!! BUT, I AM ALSO ODIN, THE ALL-WISE! THE BATTLE ENDED AS I WISHED IT TO END!



THERE MUST ALWAYS BE THOSE WITH THE FIRE OF REBELLION IN THEIR BLOOD! THERE MUST ALWAYS BE THOSE WHO WILL DARE TO FIGHT AN UNBEATABLE ENEMY! ONLY THUS CAN THE RACE OF MAN REMAIN STRONG AND FEARLESS!

I THINK I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND, FATHER!



IT IS GOOD THAT THE LEGENDS WILL SAY A DAY THERE WAS WHEN ODIN HIMSELF RETREATED!

FOR MEN MUST NEVER FEEL A CAUSE IS HOPELESS-- MEN MUST NEVER FEEL AN ENEMY CANNOT BE BEATEN!

I PRAY THAT MEN WILL ONE DAY ACCLAIM YOUR WISDOM AS THEY DO YOUR POWER, MY MOST NOBLE FATHER!

THE END

AND SO WE LEARN THAT THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO WIN A VICTORY-- MANY WAYS TO ACHIEVE A GOAL! IN THE CASE OF ODIN, LORD OF ASGARD, HIS GOAL WAS HELPING MANKIND, AND ONLY THE TRULY STRONG, ONLY THE TRULY COURAGEOUS, WILL DARE TO LOSE A BATTLE-- IN ORDER TO GAIN A TRIUMPH! NOW, UNTIL OUR NEXT EPIC OF ASGARD, MAY THE WISDOM OF ODIN BE SHOWERED UPON THEE!

5

JRM into
MYSTERY DEC. X-606
P.26

JOURNEY 102

**Tales of
ASGARD**
HOME OF THE
MIGHTY NORSE
GODS!

The BOYHOOD of THOR!

(AT THE AGE
OF
EIGHTEEN!)

"DEATH" COMES TO THOR!



WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE

ILLUSTRATED BY:
JACK KIRBY

INKED BY:
PAUL REINMAN

LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK

NOTE: THE EDITORS ARE PLEASED TO
ANNOUNCE THAT "TALES OF ASGARD" HAS
BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR
SERIES IN COMICDOM, AND HAS WON
ITSELF A PERMANENT PLACE AMONG
THE MARVEL ROSTER OF FABULOUS
FEATURES!

X-606

18 THOR APRIL 64
JOURNEY 106

6 1/4 x 9 1/4 - NO 515 X-704

THE MIGHTY THOR

THE COBRA and MR. HYDE FEEL THOR'S MIGHTY RAGE, WHEN "THE THUNDER GOD STRIKES BACK!"

CONCLUDED
FROM
LAST
ISSUE!

MY ENCHANTED HAMMER IS
SOMEWHERE INSIDE THAT COMPLEX
MACHINE! WITHOUT IT, I'LL TURN
INTO THE MORTAL DON BLAKE
WITHIN SIXTY SECONDS, AND BE
AT THE MERCY OF HYDE AND
THE COBRA!!



WRITTEN FAIRLY WELL BY
STAN LEE

DRAWN NOT TOO BADLY BY
JACK KIRBY

INKED KINDA NICE BY
CHIC STONE

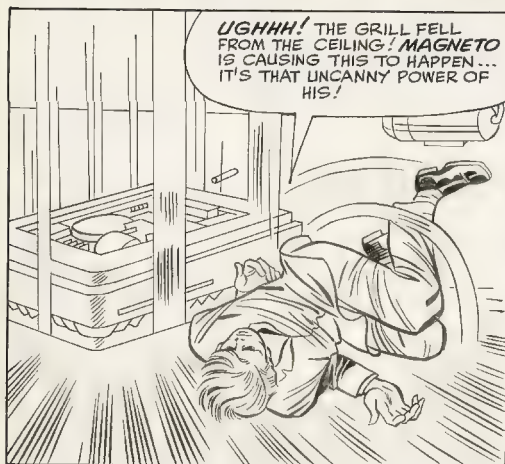
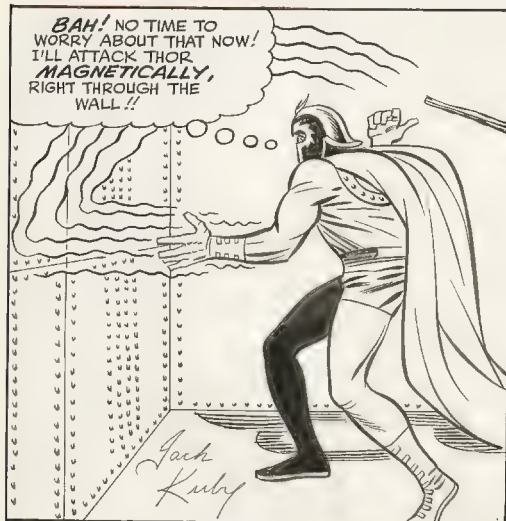
LETTERED PRETTY FAIR BY
ART SIMEK

X-704

Journey Into Mystery #109, page 12 original art
by Jack Kirby & Chic Stone

JOURNEY 109

15.



The Marvel Age of Comics in full swing as seen in this July 1964 house ad featuring the full line of comics available from Marvel.

WHO SAYS THIS ISN'T THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS?!



BIOGRAPHIES

STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust out into the post-Depression wartime economy. Through family connections, he was able to land a job with Martin Goodman's comic-book publishing start-up, Timely Comics, as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so when his first professional writing job came, in the form of a humble two-page text story in *Captain America Comics* #3, he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

But the world of comics managed to keep Stan Lee constantly employed. His proficiency on the job got him the position of managing editor at an extremely young age. He graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories in *All-Winners*, *USA Comics*, and other Timely anthologies. His tenure in the '50s saw him expand the company (now called Atlas Comics) output to include more genre experimentation, with westerns, war, horror and crime comics.

All this activity was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists topped off by the formidable talents of Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to do something to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Stan figured he would co-opt the successful superhero revival at competitor DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Stan's Marvel Age heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people, forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just like the average person might.

Stan's innovation sent shock waves through the comics industry, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold: unlike other fads of the time, it wasn't letting go. Under his direction, creations like *Fantastic Four*, *Spider-Man*, *Iron Man*, *Thor*, *Doctor Strange* and *Incredible Hulk* flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Stan developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus exploding the story possibilities for the kids who became eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Stan also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads, and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Stan wrote virtually every comic that appeared from Marvel during the 1960s. But when he was promoted to Publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Stan has returned to write scripts for the odd single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. To this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

JACK KIRBY

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917 into a gritty upbringing on the streets of New York's Lower East Side. It would be many years before he would adopt the more familiar name of Jack Kirby, but his experiences on the street would help inform the work that later made him a legend. Unlike many of his rough-and-tumble peers, his imagination inspired him to look beyond the commonality of everyday life. He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, and he was also a guy who wanted to "get things done." This hard work ethic and ambition took him places most men of humble stations like him would never dream of going.

After some early strip work helped get his name out to prospective employers, a fateful meeting with artist Joe Simon connected the two at the hip, and vaulted both of them into comics prominence. Together, they developed *Captain America* for Timely Comics, and Jack immediately helped redefine what comics could be with his innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

Soon, Simon & Kirby were working with National Publications, turning out hit kid-gang comics like *Newsboy Legion* and *Boy Commandos*, as well as super-hero fare like *Sandman* and *Manhunter*. Like many of his peers, he served honorably in WWII, with combat duties that took him through the European theater.

In the '50s, Jack returned to comics, helping establish the romance genre with its first title, *Young Romance Comics*. More genre work followed for Timely/Atlas, with a prolific output that covered western, war, and monster genres. When it came time to launch the Marvel Age of Comics, Jack brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled bombast and unbridled creativity to the fore in books like *Fantastic Four*, *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Thor*, leaving his unmistakable stamp on the characters he created.

The King's way of doing things was so popular that it set the tone for many of Stan Lee's editorial decisions throughout the '60s; before they were entrusted with taking over completely, new artists were often assimilated onto books by drawing over Jack's layouts. Jack left Marvel for DC in 1970, this time handling the scripting chores as well as the art duties. Jack's "Fourth World" books, along with *Kamandi*, *OMAC* and *The Demon*, were just a few of the highlights of his tenure at DC before returning to Marvel in the '70s to lend his unbridled imagination to a new cast of creations: *The Eternals*, *Devil Dinosaur*, and *Machine Man*. In addition, he returned to the pages of *Captain America*, the character he had first made famous 35 years previously.

Jack continued creating comics throughout the '90s until passing away in 1994, a creative giant for whom the word "legend" may be too small a title.

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS

ALSO AVAILABLE IN HARDCOVER

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-13
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-2
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-10
THE BLACK PANTHER VOL. 1
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-5
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-3
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-5
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-2
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-4
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-12
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-5
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-6
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOL. 1
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-2
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-3
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-4
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-9
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-7

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-3

THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-5
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOL. 1

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!



THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS PROUDLY PRESENT THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS COMICS AND SUPER HEROES FROM THEIR VERY BEGINNINGS IN A SERIES OF PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED ARCHIVAL VOLUMES.



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